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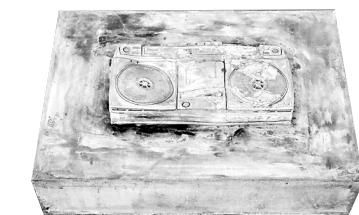
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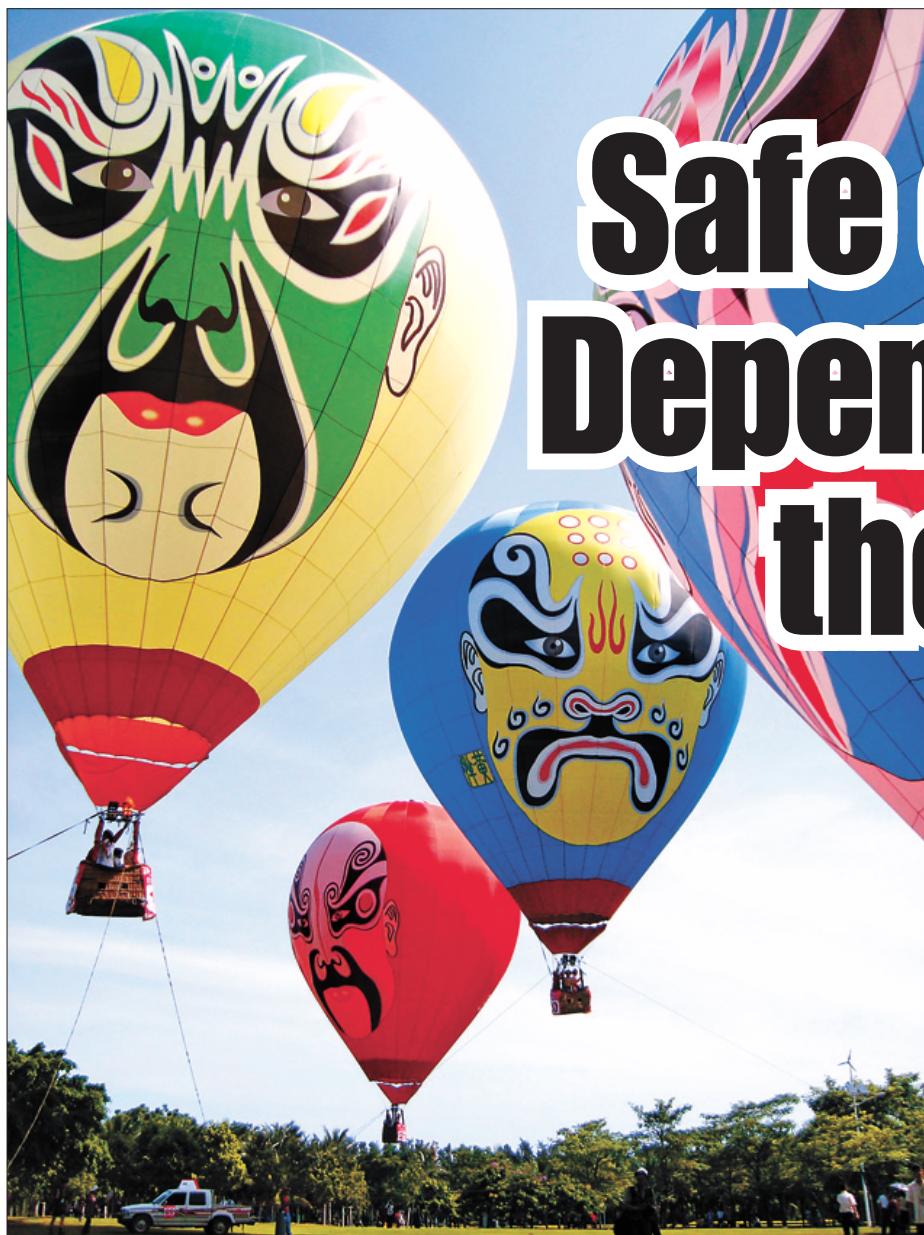


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memories

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Safe or not? Depends on the pilot

A hot air balloon accident that killed several tourists in Guangxi was a cruel reminder that air travel safety rests in the hands of the pilot.

Balloon travel is increasingly popular with tourists itching for a bird's eye view of natural wonders. But like many new industries in China, it remains mostly unregulated.

To cash in on the boom, many clubs are putting money ahead of safety.

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FREE ENTRY! BATTING CAGES! MINI DIAMOND! PHOTOS! WI GAMES!

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Private planes still grounded

A red four-seater aircraft on show in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, draws crowds of people eager to pose for a photo.

The Cirrus SR22 GTS, owned by a businessman in Shaanxi, is the first private plane in the northwest.

Chen Yilong, a real estate tycoon from Weinan City, bought the US-made aircraft for more than 5 million yuan early this year and displayed it at the 2009 China International General Aviation Convention in Xi'an from October over the weekend.

Many wage earners who could never dream of owning their own aircraft basked in Chen's reflected glory.

"Even though I myself cannot afford a private aircraft, it's good to know other northwesterners can," said Xi'an res-

ident Zhang Xiaoqiang. "Maybe in a decade or two, I'll own one, too. Who knows? I couldn't afford a car 10 years ago – now I've got one."

For the rich like Chen, owning a plane is one thing, but flying it is quite another. "I might not be able to fly for five years. I'm prepared for that," said Chen, 50.

Low-altitude airspace is controlled by the Air Force and the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC). Private flights need approval each time, and the procedure takes at least half a day, making private flight a less than enticing event.

"To avoid such restrictions, you would need to buy a high-performance aircraft that can easily reach high-altitudes. But those sell for at least \$10 million (68 million yuan) each,

plus running costs of 5 million yuan a year," Li He, regional sales manager of Avion Pacific Limited, said.

Last year, Li's company sold four such luxury planes to private buyers on the Chinese mainland at more than 100 million yuan each, he said.

Inadequate ground facilities are another factor that keeps private plane sales and the general aviation market sluggish, Li said.

"China has only 160 airports nationwide, all in big cities, compared with 19,100 general aviation airports across the US. This is too inconvenient for private jet owners," he said.

Aiming high

It is not just the rich who are dreaming of private planes.

In a remote village in Gansu Province, farmer Zhang Yuxiang keeps trying to make his

own out of a Santana car engine, three motorcycle tires and propeller blades hewn from wood.

While most of Zhang's flight trials have failed, Xu Bin, a farmer from the eastern Zhejiang Province, flew 20 minutes on a home-made plane three years ago. Xu's plane, made of old car seats, home-made wings and an engine he bought online, cost 30,000 yuan.

But some daredevil pilots of homebrew planes have ended up killing themselves, forcing the government to tighten controls over such attempts. In 2007, a student was denied approval to fly his homemade plane.

Yet in general, the government has loosened control of low-altitude airspace use for private airplanes. This year, the authorities made Guangdong Province and the northeast region trial

sites for opening the use of air-space below 1,000 meters.

If successful, this will lead to the gradual opening of low-level airspace to private planes across the country.

"It's big step," Professor Wu Tongshui, from the China Civil Aviation University, said. "A complicated [one], too, because you've got to build a complete ground radar network and a huge team of air traffic controllers to ensure flight safety."

Experts estimate private planes will increase from 11 in 2006 to 2,000 by 2020.

The CAAC encourages overseas investment in general aviation companies and supports individual ownership of private jets, Liu Wanming, deputy director of CAAC's transport department, said at the Xi'an convention Monday. (Xinhua)

Security guards told no more beatings at behest of boss



The new law prohibits security guards from using force to settle disputes.

CFP Photo

The government seems ready to regulate the security guard market with new recruitment, training and behavioral regulations set to take effect beginning 2010, according to the new Safe-guard Service Regulation Rules signed by Premier Wen Jiabao earlier this month.

The new rule requires all guards to attend training programs and receive certification before assuming their posts. Recruiters must provide ongoing classes on laws, professional skills, civil practices and behavior.

It also prohibits guards from detaining people, conducting body searches, beating people, con-

fiscating possessions, disrupting legal gatherings and using force to settle disputes.

The new rule requires employers to change their security guards on a regular basis.

Security guards are employed by banks, shopping malls, hospitals, factories and residential communities. Most are young people from the countryside with no formal qualifications or training.

The new rule would require recruiters to only hire adults age 18 or older. Hiring adults will guarantee the guard's right to refuse to follow illegal orders from his or her boss. Recruiters must also pay the guard's national wel-

fare fees and may not arbitrarily terminate a guard's contract or withhold pay.

The current unregulated recruitment system has caused many problems, including the searching and beating of customers in shopping malls. Many security guards have also been used as hired muscle to intimidate, beat or kill community residents who pose a threat to their boss. In some factories, the guards have punished workers by depriving them of food.

He Jian is one of 13 security guards in a SPA saloon in Beijing. He said he and the other guards are arbitrarily hired and

Donations get tracked online

By Han Manman

The country's first charity information platform is making it possible for donors to see how their money is being used.

The charity and donation platform donation.gov.cn, created by the China Charity Information Center (CCIC) under the Ministry of Civil Affairs, went online last weekend.

The platform, the government's first web leap into public welfare, serves as a bridge between donors and the needy – both home and abroad – and provides instant information about charitable activities.

Peng Jianmei, director of CCIC, said the country is in urgent need of such a platform as charities have not been terribly good at keeping their donors informed.

"This website allows citizens to both donate and seek help. It's more convenient and transparent," Peng said.

As more people begin donating to the country's charities, how that money is being used by the government and NGOs has become a major concern. Many have been suspicious about the final destination of money donated following last year's May 12 earthquake in Sichuan.

The CCIC's latest report shows that only 12 of the 28 groups involved in post-quake rescue work have posted how their donations were spent. It also points out that all 28 organizations failed to be open and transparent in their use of donated funds. Only the source of the money was announced.

Fewer than 40 percent of the 82 national organizations involved in the donations release annual reports and financial statements online, and six institutions do not even have websites, the report said.

"Chinese charity groups publish very little information online, especially critical information like how they used donated money," Peng said.

Many donations are collected through businesses or drives. About 97 percent of the people who donate to charity have no idea which organization has taken their money, and 96 percent have no idea how their money is used, according to a recent poll by the Beijing News and 163.com.

fired by their bosses in the entertainment industry.

"The only criterion is that you need to be strong and big. They won't ask anything else," he said. "You have to do whatever the boss tells you, and you have to do it well."

Some bosses use the security guards as a private brute squad, especially in entertainment venues like bars and in the criminal underworld.

Since the first security guard company began working under police supervision in December 1984, in Shenzhen, more than

2,800 new companies have opened across the nation. The guards are still technically under police supervision, and employers have recruited more than 2 million.

Statistics from the National Legal Works Commission say 309 security guards have perished in the past eight years while protecting their bosses.

The new rule encourages bosses to hire security guards from registered service companies rather than directly picking guards from the countryside.

(By Zhao Hongyi)

Rare balloon accident rings tourism alarms

By Venus Lee

Hot air ballooning was always considered a safe leisure sport, but the October 14 crash of a balloon in a southern resort town has some questioning the safety of floating.

Bad pilots killed balloonists

There were five passengers, all tourists from the Netherlands, and two balloon operators aboard the ride last Wednesday. The balloon flew for about an hour and was beginning to land when a fuel tank leak caused it to ignite at 150 meters above ground.

Four of the tourists were killed when the accident occurred in Maling Township, Lipu County, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The fifth tourist and the two operators were injured. The balloon belonged to Dongguan Meixiang Aviation Club and was licensed for flight last September.

The Aero Sports Federation of China (ASFA) said the accident was caused by strong winds and bad piloting.

"There have only been six accidents with fatalities in China's history of ballooning, this one included. Most accidents are caused by bad piloting," Wu Gongyu, director of ASFA, said. "Actually, a hot air balloon is one of the safest flying vehicles as long as you pay attention to meteorology, wind speed, equipment and fuel."

Still limited to Yangshuo

Wu said balloons have been regulated as a national-level aviation sport since they were introduced to China in the 1980s.

In the late 1990s, they became popular for aerial photography, advertising, weddings and various other celebrations.

It has only become attached to the tourism industry in the last decade. Yangshuo county, a scenic town near Guilin, was the first to use balloons to offer spectacular bird-eye views of its unique limestone cliffs. The only two profitable hot air balloon clubs licensed by General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC) are all located in Yangshuo: Dongguan Meixiang Aviation Club and Pingbuqingyun Hot Air Balloon Club.

"Yangshuo was the first place to develop balloon tourism ... and sightseeing in a hot air balloon has become a major tourist activity in the county," Wu said.

But big cities like Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou have been left out because dense blocks of high-rises inhibit balloon control. "The hot air balloon clubs in Beijing and training schools around the city, such as Zhonghanglian Aviation Sports School in Hebei Province and the Datong and Taiyuan Aviation Sports Schools in Shanxi Province, are all pilot-training organizations. Their focus on balloons is strictly competitive," said Liu Xiang, head of Beijing Feixiang Hot-air-balloon Club.

Poorly regulated

"The administration on balloon flights as a sport is very strict and clear, but their use in commercial flights is too new to be regulated," Liu said.

He said the local clubs usually fail to inspect and maintain the equipment of the balloon because they fly so often – and because no one is checking to see if they do.

The current regulators of balloon companies are the CAAC, General Administration of Sport of China (GASC), industrial and commercial bureau and the local civil affairs bureau.

CAAC is responsible for monitoring each balloon's test flight, as well as pilot accreditation. The GASC regulates all sports aviation activities, while the civil affairs bureau regulates non-profit flights used for celebrations and public activities. The industrial and commercial bureau is left to administer those used in weddings and tourism.

But before boarding a balloon, tourists should exercise common sense. "Rain, fog and winds faster than 6 meters per second make for bad flying conditions," Wu said. "If there is an emergency, don't jump out of the balloon. You should wait and follow the pilot's instructions."



While air balloons are regulated for sports use, anything goes in their commercial use.

CFP Photo

'AIDS prostitute' a victim of ex's revenge

By Zhang Dongya

Yan Deli, the 30-year-old woman made famous for announcing she was an HIV-positive prostitute and posting the phone numbers of her "clients," is now known to have been the victim of vengeful defamation.

The October 12 blog entry, in which "she" made the announcement, may have been created by an ex-boyfriend.

The blog said that Yan, born in Jianguang village, Hebei Province, was raped by her stepfather at age 15. After that she fled to Beijing where she became a prostitute to "seek revenge," it said.

The post included private materials to verify her identity: her national ID, medical transcripts from a pregnancy last year and hundreds of indecent photos.

Owners of the 279 cell phone numbers responded to the posting in outrage.

But three days later, Yan was shocked when she read the news online.

"I've never opened a blog," she told media. She said the blog was made up by someone else, but that the pictures were authentic.

The *Beijing Youth Daily* reported that Yan gave the photographs to her ex-boyfriend; most of the numbers were taken from an old phone's list of colleagues and friends.

She reported the case to local police in Jianguang village on October 18 and submitted original prints of the 161 pictures. She said her family found the photos scattered along the



Yan Deli

Photo from Yan's blog

road to Rongcheng County in August. They did not contact the police due to concerns about her privacy.

The ex-boyfriend, whose name has not been released, tried to extort 5,000 yuan from Yan when they broke up, but she refused to pay, according to a Rongcheng police officer who refused to state his name.

Rongcheng police have stated that her ex-boyfriend is the prime suspect. They are currently building a case

and may seek to arrest him on suspicion of circulating obscene materials, Huang Xin, a spokesman for Rongcheng County Police Station, said.

Yan took an HIV test in her hometown's center for disease control and prevention: the preliminary results showed she is not HIV positive. A second test at the Beijing CDC confirmed it.

Her stepfather countered the rape accusations saying, "It doesn't matter what people say about me because I'm old. But how can my daughter live with these rumors?"

"No matter whether the blog's content is real or fabricated, the publishing was a violation of privacy and was a clear violation of our country's laws that protect people from defamation. His illegal circulation of obscene pictures also disturbed social order, and for this also he will be held legally accountable," said Liu Ming, a Beijing lawyer.

Yan's mother said the incident has troubled the entire family. Yan has quit her current job, and is considering seeking compensation for mental injury.

Mapping out the noise



This sample noise map covers 12.7 square kilometers of Haidian District. A complete map should be available next year.

Photo provided by btcdb.com

By Jin Zhu

Since last July, Shenzhen and Beijing have been publishing city noise maps. Although they only include a limited slice of each city, they represent a bold new step to combat what could become an ear-splitting problem.



Although most people are aware of noise damage, few are concerned about its effects.

CFP Photo

Offending decibels

The city's first map of a 12.7-square-kilometer block of Haidian District revealed how various urban districts are plagued by noise pollution. It was unveiled by the Beijing Municipal Institute of Labor Protection last month.

"The current noise pollution comes mainly from traffic. Engineers created this sample map to reflect the noise of road traffic as a starting point," Hu Wencheng, a lead engineer at the institute, said.

The map depicts an area bounded by Xizhimen and Deshengmen in the south and Jianxiangqiao and Xueyuanqiao in the north. The area includes almost every kind of road: speedway, arterial road and express lanes.

The sample illustrates levels of noise pollution with different colors. In areas along the sides of the speedway, coded in blue, noise reaches 75 or more decibels. The sides of the main roads marked in red and purple hover around 70 decibels. In residential communities, coded in green and yellow, the noise ranges from 40 to 45 decibels.

Hu said the institute has been mapping urban noise since 2006. The city was divided into several parts and monitored by standing in the center of each for 10 minutes. "It was only a rough average, but the city registered 69 or more decibels everywhere. That was not precise enough," he said.

The current model implements some techniques used by European countries, which are at the forefront of noise mapping. But some adjustments are required.

"Using buses as an example, ours have engines designed very different from what you see in European buses, so the base noise level is not the same," Hu said. The engi-

neers cataloged the noise output of 7,000 buses over the last half year.

The new model map has been submitted to the Beijing Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau, which will complete a citywide noise map next year.

It's about awareness

"Using technology to map noise seems strange, but the data applies to everyone's life," Lu Yadong, a researcher from the Laboratory of Vibration and Noise at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said.

National noise regulations require that noise levels in residential communities not exceed 55 decibels during the daytime and 45 decibels at night. Roadsides cannot exceed 70 decibels during the daytime and 55 decibels at night.

"The most comfortable volume for ordinary people is 50 decibels during the daytime and 30 decibels at night. When living in a noisy environment of 80-or more decibels for extended periods, there is a 50-percent chance of developing hearing loss," Lu said.

But rapid expansion of roadways can send noise levels rocketing.

Shenzhen, which published a sample noise map last July, reported that 75 percent of its complaints for environmental pollution are related to noises, among which, over 80 percent are traffic noise.

Although most people are aware of noise damage, few know what to do about it.

Since January 1, 2007, developers in Beijing have been required to present sound insulation plans and proposed acoustic noise levels as heard in houses and businesses, including marking clearly the noise data of roadways, subways and light railways.

"But only a handful of people have thought about ways to reduce noise inside new developments," said Zhang Jian, manager of the marketing department of Rome Garden, a local commercial housing company.

But that is changing as new residents sue their building managers and property developers for selling

homes open to excessive noise.

"Price and location were what I thought about most when buying a house. But I only noticed the noise once I really stayed there," Angela Gan, a Beijing resident, said. She said she would like to

be able to see a citywide noise map to know if her house is in one of the polluted areas.

"Only when people learn to pay attention to surrounding noise will they take steps to protect themselves," Hu Wencheng said.

To bring awareness of noise will not only benefit ordinary people, but also work for both the government and units in charge of construction.

"When the whole map is completed, it would provide important data for the city's long-term development plan," Hu said. Building developers will also be able to consult the map to take extra steps to control noise when building in a polluted area.

Still far to go

Hu said the current sample map focusing on road traffic is only a start, and the institute will continue to map the entire city. More factors will be taken into consideration, including planes, railways and non-traffic noise.

"Currently, people can only estimate the noise situation based on the generalized colors, and that is not precise enough," he said.

"The final map would provide every street with detailed information. When residents view the map online, they will be able to enter their address and get exact noise data right away," he said.

The engineers are also considering adding comparisons to help people estimate how loud the noise are. This would be similar to the noise map published in London, which compared residential noise to common sounds like vacuum cleaners, alarm clocks and electric mixers.

"For people unfamiliar with decibel measurements, these comparisons can be very helpful in estimating noise," Hu said.



Traditional Beijing culture and unique tea

 Karma Tea House offers a quintessential look into China and its tea culture from its location in the Xiaoju Hutong, Dongcheng District. Its small quadrangle is bursting with traditional Chinese folk culture.

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atmosphere.

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Got that sinking feeling?

Rising seas threaten Shanghai

Sea levels that are rising twice as fast as expected mean Shanghai could soon become "Xiahai" if a solution is not found. An Associated Press article released Monday says the threat to the mainland's commercial capital is more imminent than previously expected – along with London, Miami, New York and other major metropolises.



Rising sea levels because of global warming will expose tens of millions of people in Shanghai to coastal flooding. IC Photo

Shanghai's future depends on finding ways to prevent the same waters that made it a major international port from reclaiming it.

Global warming is melting glaciers and polar ice sheets, and raising sea levels worldwide, leaving tens of millions of people in coastal areas and on low-lying islands vulnerable to flooding and other weather-related catastrophes.

Shanghai, with an altitude roughly 3 meters above sea level, is among dozens of great world cities – includ-

ing London, Miami, New York, New Orleans, Mumbai, Cairo, Amsterdam and Tokyo – threatened by waters that now are rising twice as fast as projected just a few years ago.

Estimates of the scale and timing vary, but Stefan Rahmstorf, a climate-change expert at Germany's Potsdam Institute, expects a 1-meter rise in sea levels within the century and up to 5 meters over the next 300 years.

Chinese cities are among the most threatened. Their huge populations –

the Yangtze River Delta region alone has about 80 million people – and their rapid growth into giant industrial, financial and shipping centers could mean massive losses from rising sea levels, experts say.

The sea is steadily advancing on Shanghai, tainting its freshwater supplies as it turns coastal land and groundwater salty, slowing drainage of the area's heavily polluted flood basin and eating away at the precious delta soils that form its foundation.

Shanghai authority

"By no means will Shanghai be under the sea 50 years from now. It won't be like *The Day After Tomorrow*," says Zheng Hongbo, a geologist who heads the School of Earth Science and Engineering at Nanjing University, referring to a Hollywood film that depicts the catastrophic effects of global warming.

"Scientifically, though, this is a problem whether we like it or not," he says, pointing to areas along Shanghai's coast thought to be shrinking due to erosion caused by rising water levels.

Legend credits Emperor Yu the Great with taming floods in Neolithic times by dredging new river channels to absorb excess water. In modern times, Shanghai has been sinking for decades, thanks to the pumping of groundwater and the construction of thousands of high-rise buildings.

Today, city engineers are reinforcing flood gates and levees to contain rivers rising due to heavy silting and subsidence.

"We used to play on the river banks and swim in the water when I was growing up. But the river is higher now," says Ma Shikang, an engineer overseeing Shanghai's main flood gate, pointing to homes below water level near the city's famed waterfront Bund.

Shanghai is considering building still bigger barriers – like those in London, Venice and the Netherlands – to fend off potentially disastrous storm surges, most likely at the point 30 kilometers downstream where the deep, muddy Huangpu River empties into the Yangtze.

Sang Baoliang, deputy director of the Shanghai Flood Control Headquarters, has been to see the Thames Barrier, which protects London, and the Deltaworks series of storm barriers and dams in the Netherlands, where two-thirds of the population lives on land below sea level, much of it reclaimed from the sea.

"We're studying this, but it's extremely complicated," Sang says.

"If the research determines that indeed the sea level will rise further, then we will need to build the walls higher," he says.

(Agencies)

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Giants from our Nasdaq?

Country's second-board stock exchange starts trading next Friday

By Huang Daochen

Google owes much of its existence to the Nasdaq. By making venture capital available for enterprises in their early stage, the New York-based stock exchange, known as the pioneer of the growth enterprise market (GEM), has fostered giants like Intel, Apple and Google.

Next Friday, China will get its own Nasdaq-styled board. But, can it make another Intel or Google? Many believe the board is a milestone, but the government must work to create a better business environment and intelligent investors.

齐脉业	88200 88010 88200 88889 88821670	兆维科技	88008 88856 88855 88886859	上海首大	88870 88006 88
份力	88888 88006 88855 88959 88816914	福耀玻璃	88008 88808 88805 88856016	南京新百	88826 88002 88
份	88888 88012 88834 88833 88810546	新南洋	88888 88009 88835 88834 88886704	京投银泰	88865 88008 88
份	88048 88006 88048 88042 8805955	强生控股	88809 88008 88614 88603 888889412	珠江实业	881010 88006 88
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份	88898 88008 88883 88942 88888008	哈药股份	88808 88008 88607 88608 88886888	金龙汽车	88715 88008 88
份	88638 88008 88883 88942 88888925	天地源	88899 88008 88595 88594 88838755	刚泰控股	88871 88005 88



People are checking stock prices at a trading house in Beijing. Small investors are preparing to pounce on the coming GEM next Friday. IC Photo

After a 10-year wait, the China Securities Regulatory Commission, the country's securities regulator, announced that trading on the second-board stock exchange, a Nasdaq-style GEM, will open next Friday.

The first batch of 28 start-up companies will publish registration statements on the Shenzhen bourse October 26 before going public, chairman of the commission Shang Fulin said.

The second-board is

designed to help small and medium-sized enterprises to raise money, as it emphasizes the growth potential more than the profitability. Previously, innovative companies were trapped by a lack of funds as most of them did not qualify for bank loans.

Xinhua reported the 28 companies, which include pharmaceuticals, new energy, software and electronics, would raise a combined 15.5 billion

yuan, more than double the amount planned.

Among them, the listing of Huayi Brothers Media, the country's well-known film company, demonstrates the government's recent encouragement of companies in the culture industry to seek public funds to boost their size and quality.

Meanwhile, for the possible speculators, Shang warned that the GEM-listed firms pose greater risks than the Shanghai

stocks, including a greater likelihood that their share prices may be manipulated.

"Investors should acquaint themselves with the GEM features and their own risk before making an investment," he said.

The Shenzhen Stock Exchange has said that on the first day of trading, any share that increases or decrease more than 80 percent will be suspended until three minutes before the market's close.

Analyst

A new board at a bad time?

The establishment of the new board should be applauded, but it seems like bad timing as the prospects for the global economy remain uncertain and investors are souring on IPOs.

Why then is the government launching the board?

"It may not look like what it seems," Zhao Xiao, economics professor with the University of Science and Technology Beijing, said.

Obstacles ahead

Eligible individual investor matters

Can China make another Google once its GEM is established? That depends on the participants – individual investors make up the majority, Wen Yiwen, industrial analyst with the Oriental Securities Beijing branch, said.

Having a secondary board is not sufficient to sustain the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and the high-tech industry, Wen said. "It also calls for knowledgeable and intelligent investors who understand the prospects with regard to investing in growth companies."

"Already there are concerns that without governance and

Zhao, who focuses on government policy, said the GEM is actually an important move for the country to tackle one of its most pressing problems: how to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) grow.

SMEs account for eight out of 10 jobs, pay 50 percent of the national taxes and account for half of the gross domestic product (GDP).

The problem is that the gov-

ernment bank lending has not filtered down to the SME sector, Zhao said. Statistics show that loans are going mainly to state-owned enterprises.

The GEM presents a way to help SMEs get access to capital, enlarging the previous Small and Medium Enterprises Board that the Shenzhen bourse set up in 2004.

Zhao noted that a number of countries and regions have

launched GEMs, but at different development levels.

A successful GEM is able to cultivate a large batch of innovative firms, he said. Nasdaq fostered a large group of enterprises including Google, Intel and Apple, and most of these enterprises have grown into global giants.

In addition, Zhao said more effort should be put on supervision to maintain justice and transparency.

guidance, the GEM could become a casino, as small investors focus on speculation and hefty rewards," he said.

According to an analysis on individual investors' structure and current behavior on the Shanghai securities market from January 2005 to May 2008, individual investors are immature, irrational and lack risk awareness, and especially lack basic investment knowledge.

Wen knows it well.

When the government announced the new board plan in late March, small investors flocked to places like Oriental Securities to open accounts.

In a smoky room full of computer screens, crowds of citizens – mostly seniors – spent their days poring over charts or exchanging gossip and tips.

"What they talked about most was making a bet on the new board's IPOs," Wen said. "Some even suggested selling their shares at 10 am on the first day."

"They made it sound as if investing in GEM IPOs is as easy as picking up cash from the ground," he said.

Though Wen said he does not think individual investors have much impact on the whole stock market, he worried. "They are critical to the success of the GEM,

as their investment decisions represent an initial screening of a company's reward possibilities."

"There needs to be a department that teaches and trains these investors based on their demands," he said.

The government should also pay attention to creating a business environment in which small and medium-sized companies can grow.

Credit rating, accounting, auditing and legal organizations should play their roles according to professional standards and ethics. Information disclosure rules should be firmly enforced, he said.

Beggars record label steps into China

By Wang Yu

Belle & Sebastian, Basement Jaxx, Beck, Cat Power, Jarvis Cocker, Mogwai, Radiohead, Scott Walker, Sigur Ros, Sonic Youth and The Strokes.

These big names in the international music scene have all signed with Beggars, the biggest independent record label in the world. This September, the label entered the local music scene and started building a China branch.

Having been trading for over three decades, Beggars Group is still run by its owners, and its musical focus remains fiercely alternative. Among its four sub labels, the company owns 4AD outright, which took over the rosters of Beggars Banquet and Too Pure when they were mothballed in 2008. It has a 50 percent stake in the others.

Beggars Group is working with Outdry, a Beijing-based music company founded by British promoter Ed Peto, as its exclusive representative in Beijing. It is also launching a dedicated website for Chinese speakers.

Key physical releases will come through local labels Jingwen and Hi-Note; the full catalogue will be available through wa3.cn for online subscription and mobile distribution.

According to the company's plan, its artists and bands will also be gradually introduced to China. The group British Sea Power was expected to perform the label's debut show at Modern Sky Festival, but government policy forced a cancellation of the performance.

"The Chinese music market requires radical thinking and a real sense of adventure – two qualities which Beggars has proved to have in spades. The development of Beggars China is a pioneering project and we here at Outdry are looking forward to helping this take shape," Peto said.

"It is my fifth time coming here to meet more and more people, talk with them and try to understand the Chinese market," said Simon Wheeler, the company's director of digital music. Though the scene is small, Wheeler said he found many people interested in new music – and they were using the Internet to discover it.

"Buying music online is convenient. Without the distribution of physical records it is also cheap. It is true in China things are extreme because the country does not have a history of pop music consumption. But Chinese people are not the only ones reluctant to pay for music – people are downloading it for free all over the world," Wheeler said.

But before tackling piracy, the company needs to make its music popular.

That is where Outdry comes in. "You know one thing I've learnt about the Chinese market is that it has changed every time I came back, very quickly. So we need to be flexible, able to adapt and wait until the opportunity comes," Wheeler said.

Philanthropy or tax evasion?

Chinese billionaire to set up charity modeled after Gates Foundation



Chen Fashu came under the public spotlight after he hired Tang Jun, the former president of Microsoft China.

IC Photo

Chen Fashu, the president of New Huadu Industrial Group, plans to create a charity foundation with 90 percent of the shares he holds – worth some 8 billion yuan, the *Beijing Youth Daily* reported Monday.

Chen, 48, says he hopes to model the fund after the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, a huge charity fund established by the founder of software giant

Microsoft, the paper said.

New Huadu's CEO Tang Jun said the fund will account for 45 percent of Chen's personal assets and will become the country's largest ever civil charity foundation.

Chen, who holds large stakes in listed companies like Tsingtao Brewery and Yunnan Baiyao, on top of New Huadu Industrial Group, was this month ranked number 25 on the Hurun list of

China's richest people, the newspaper report said.

However, the paper reported that Chen was under investigation for possible tax evasion, and said there were speculations his charity fund was a tactic to save himself from charges.

But in an interview with the *Beijing News*, Chen denied the accusations and said he was not the subject of any govern-

ment probe.

"It's taken two years to get approval from the Fujian provincial government to set up the fund," he said. "In the past 20 years, I benefited from China's economic development opportunities and gained social recognition as well as accumulated some wealth. In the future, what I plan to do is repay the country and society."

Expert view

Charity needs legal oversight and better management

Why do people always think of tax evasion once there's a big donation from a billionaire? This is an embarrassing situation for China's rich: on the one hand, they're criticized for not giving since there are so many people out there who have difficulty obtaining just the basics for survival; on the other hand, when they finally give, they face probes for tax evasion.

The reason for the embarrassment is not hard to understand: the country still does not have

laws to encourage and manage charities. The charity sector's system and mechanisms lag far behind demand.

There should be a law that clearly defines the nature of charity organizations and standardizes their preferential tax policies, registration and internal system of governance.

But it would be simplistic to expect that once there's a law, charities would make a big leap forward. With the guarantee of legal supervision,

more donations will inevitably stream in from big corporations, but charities will not necessarily become much more trusted and reputable.

A charity is not just about finding money; it can run into numerous problems. Internationally, it is reported that less than half – sometimes only 20 percent – of the money for some African aid programs actually reaches people on the ground.

The more public donations there are, the more vulnerable

funds will be to those who, unable to feel any sense of moral responsibility, treat it as easy money.

Therefore, management is of vital importance to charities' healthy development. Without a decent and transparent management system, they can easily become a hotbed of embezzlement and cause more problems than they solve.

— Alading Wang,
senior commentator with
Beijing News

Comment

It is tax avoidance

If you had to give the government 25 percent or more at the end of each fiscal year, would you? I do not think so. So yes, most of the charities set up by celebrities are geared toward avoiding income tax. Martha Stewart, Bill Gates and in China, Chen Fashu.

— Roberto Chen, editor,
Xinhua News Agency

Philanthropy growing

It's interesting to see that Chinese people in urban areas can give such a huge amount of money. People tend to give in accordance with their wealth, so another factor could be the growing number of middle class and high-net-worth individuals. I could not agree more that this is a fascinating time to be watching China's philan-

thropic landscape.

— Bea Devlin, secretary,
Charities Aid Foundation

A generous plan

I disagree that Chen is trying to avoid paying tax. He is so rich that if he thinks about evading taxes, it's only because he feels he can spend the money better than some bureaucrat in helping the people. I wish more rich people would be as gener-

ous with what they have.

— Lillian Lee, PR consultant

Nice first step

Chen took the first step. I believe that nonprofit groups and individuals in China will continue to act positively and lead the way in the charity sector. But as everyone knows, change takes time.

— Grace Chiang,
project manager

Background

Philanthropic groups in China

Philanthropy is becoming more important to Chinese people. A new study shows people and businesses are beginning to show their potential for benevolence.

According to a study by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, domestic charities raised 103.7 billion yuan in 2008, more than three times the amount the previous year. The study says that for the first time, individuals gave more than businesses.

There are three main philanthropic groups. First are the state-owned or government-related charities: these institutions are often seen as slow and inefficient.

The second group consists of private international and local groups approved by the state. These so-called NGOs are very difficult to establish because of the complicated application process and long wait for approval from authorities. On top of this, the group must be sponsored by a government department.

Last are the 300,000 small organizations and 650 private foundations in the country, a figure provided by Xinhua news agency says. Most of them are either supported by a business or are not officially registered. Chen's foundation belongs to this group.

Swiss teen wins 2009 Elite modeling contest



Julia Saner

Seventeen-year-old Swiss model Julia Saner became the newest titleholder of the World Elite Model Look in finals last Sunday in Sanya, Hainan Province.

Saner momentarily froze when she heard her name announced the winner. "I failed to respond when the host called my name till the girl beside me gave me a nudge and firmly said to me, 'it's you.' Then it dawned on me that I was the winner," said Saner who stands 1.8 meters tall and whose vital statistics measure 80-61-90.

The prestigious Elite title catapults Saner into the center of the glamorous world of fashion modeling. Her prize includes a \$100,000-worth modeling contract, an opportunity to be on the cover of top international fashion magazines and a chance to work with some of the best photographers in the industry.

Saner cannot wait to walk down the catwalks of New York, Paris and Milan, but first she plans to com-

plete her formal education. "To be a supermodel is my dream. I realized the first step was winning the competition, but I think I should finish my studies first before putting more effort into my modeling dream," she said.

Runners-up at the Elite contest were Caterina Ravaglia, 15, from Italy; Mano Pieto, 16, from France; and Emilie Smith, 15, from Great Britain.

Increasingly younger competitors have become the trend in international modeling contests. At this year's Elite pageant, the oldest participant was 21 years old and the youngest 14. "The trend of younger competitors doesn't mean the fashion world is becoming younger. On the contrary, it has become more mature," said Alain Attia, the executive president for Elite Model Look International, the pageant organizer.

Seventy models from more than 60 countries and regions took part in the

finals, which were judged by a panel of the world's top fashion experts including Maurizio Galante and Felipe Oliveira Baptista.

The Elite Model Look is an international beauty pageant founded in France by the Elite Group in 1972. International supermodels such as Cindy Crawford, Stephanie Seymour and Tatjana Patitz got their break at the annual competition. This was the second time the pageant was held in Sanya.

(By Venus Lee)



The candidates enjoy Sanya's tourist attractions.

The competition's top four winners.
Photos provided by World Elite Model Look Committee

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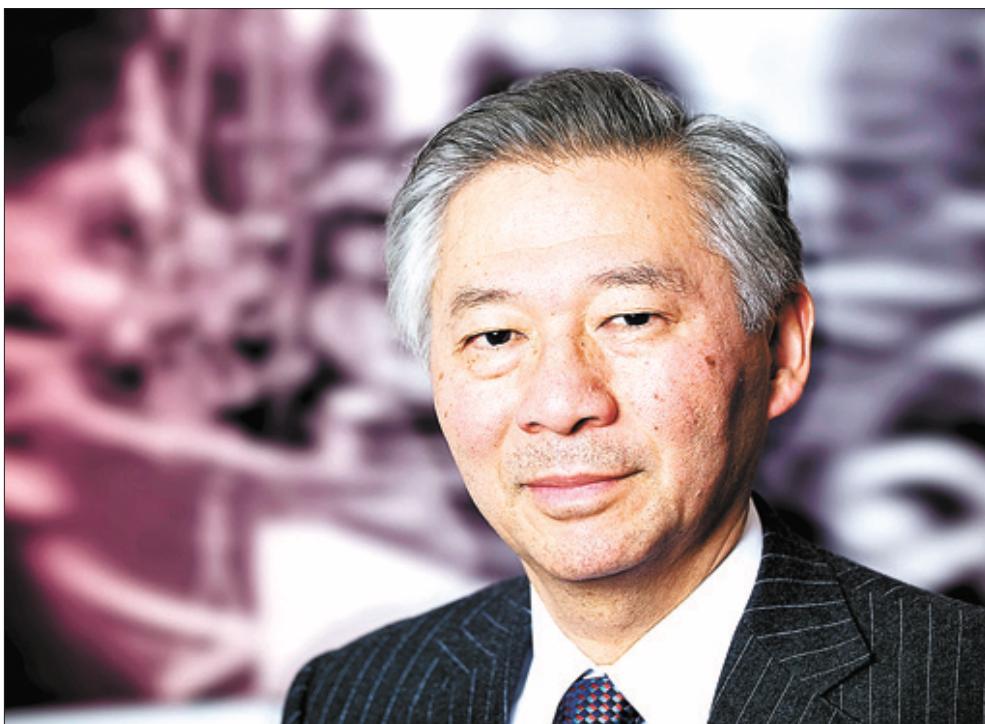
- Chinese Street Food Festival
- Kids Show
- Guest Country
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George S. Yip

Photo provided by Jia Yin

Dutch academic discusses challenges of doing global business

By Jin Zhu

The dean of the Rotterdam School of Management (RSM), Erasmus University, spoke before Chinese entrepreneurs in town last Thursday about the challenges of doing global business.

George S. Yip, who came to China for collaborative talks with Peking and Fudan University, said Chinese products overseas remain stuck with the reputation "low-priced and below quality."

"Although selling products at lower prices can result in a higher market share, this is only temporary. Creating famous brands and building a good reputation is the path Chinese enterprises should take in the global marketplace," said Yip, a former Dutch national who now holds dual citizenship in the UK and US.

In the first half of the year, 150

state-owned enterprises sought mergers and acquisitions with foreign brands.

To many entrepreneurs, this was a good move while the global economy was at a low point, Yip said. But Chinese enterprises, especially smaller ones, should ensure they are well-prepared for such a step, he said.

"Many corporate decision-makers commonly err in overestimating their capital capabilities and underestimating potential risks in the global market. And this is quite dangerous," Yip said.

The best way to penetrate the global market, he believes, is to partner with solid local companies who understand the ground situation, especially when doing business in Japan, Europe and North America.

As the dean of RSM, one of the

world's leading business schools, Yip encouraged owners of minor enterprises to earn a business degree, such as an MBA, to help them navigate the modern economic world.

Yip also expressed amazement at China's sharp economic growth, something he has followed since his first visit to the country in 1995.

He said China's rebound from the global economic recession is astonishing.

"During the past year, China's GDP has remained at 8 percent. That is amazing when the global economy experienced a severe recession," the dean said, adding that the country is leading the world out of the slump and that the rest of the world is relying on the Chinese economy's steady performance.

US organization demonstrates 'unimagined' uses of cotton

By Han Manman

People know cotton as the stuff of T-shirts, tissue paper and bed sheets. But exhibition held last weekend showed that cotton also goes into food and construction materials.

"Cotton - Beyond Your Imagination," the country's first cotton-themed interactive exhibition organized by the US Cotton Incorporated and the US-based Cotton Council International, showed visitors the wide variety of cotton that exists: a cotton denim cloth that repels water and dirt like a plastic raincoat, a cotton fiber used to build homes and cotton that goes into food.

"I was just eating an ice cream while looking at the exhibit when a staff told me the ice cream also contained cotton. Unbelievable!" a girl named Chen Jie said. At the exhibition's cotton food booth, Chen said she discovered that her favorite snacks - ice cream and cotton candy - contain cottonseed oil.

Wang Jiarong, director of Cotton Incorporated China, said cottonseed oil and cottonseed linters are widely used in food production, adding that cotton

as a food source has attracted a lot of attention in recent years.

He said the exhibition also discussed cotton's untapped potential, such as the newly discovered gossypol, a chemical in the cotton plant that will be used in food manufacturing in the future.

Cotton is grown in countries on all continents except Antarctica, Wang said, but the material's use has still been limited.

"Although cotton is widely used in various aspects of daily life, not many people understand the many uses of cotton," Wang said, thus the "Beyond Your Imagination" exhibit.

He said his office tries to educate people about the benefits of using cotton, especially its versatility, comfort and eco-friendliness. Ultimately, Cotton Incorporated China aims to increase Chinese consumers' awareness and preference for environmentally friendly materials, he said.

What is working in their favor is the world becoming more aware of environmental protection, healthy habits and sustainability. "Cotton use will build a more sustainable and greener future," Wang said.



Visitors to the exhibit discover that their favorite cotton candy contains cottonseed.
Photo provided by Li Ruiting



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Electronic music show a huge hit last weekend

By Wang Yu

Haidian Park has built a reputation in recent years as the base of rock and roll in Beijing after hosting numerous times the successful Midi Music Festival and Modern Sky Festival.

But last weekend, it was electronic dance music that enveloped the park. Local and foreign DJs and party goers flocked to the venue, their bodies gyrating to the beat: a throwback to rave parties of the 1990s.

The two-day music event, titled Zoo, started at 8 pm last Friday. The park's exhibition hall was divided into the main and secondary stages. Two bars around the smaller stage, COSMO, offered a variety of

drinks, while a distance from the stage, cushions were scattered on the ground – a place for dancers to take a break.

At the Modern Sky Festival during the National Day holiday, free tickets to Zoo were given to the audience to promote the electronic music show. The marketing strategy worked: university students and residents crowded the dance floor, joining regulars to the city's live music events. Dancers focused on the music, unlike those in clubs around the Worker Stadium and Sanlitun who go out to see and be seen.

The following day, the spotlight focused on Top DJs and electronic bands. First off was Sulumi, an 8-bit musi-

cian who uses his Game Boy console to create non-stop, refreshing tunes.

The crowd went wild when Pet Conspiracy took the stage, a group that blends punk rock, disco and new wave with artistic chaos. The band consists of electronic producer Huzi, Ziyu lead singer Helen Feng, Italian indie musician Edo and designer Yun Yun. Though Feng has not fully healed from an arm injury and wore a cast, her energy was as high as ever.

Meanwhile, the DJs kept playing beats to warm the audience on that chilly autumn evening. At one point, techno music was played over and over, so some people decided to leave. But those who decided

to stick it out to the end were not disappointed.

At midnight, DJ Spooky appeared. The Washington DC-born electronic and experimental hip hop musician, whose work is often called "ill-bient" or "trip hop," was the biggest star of the evening. With digital art flashing on the screens behind him, the artist kept people moving to the beat with electronic music blended with Indian and Arabian beats, dub and reggae.

Some people threw star-shaped decorations in the air without missing a step. The scene was no less energetic and exciting than a rock concert, proving what DJ Spooky once said: "Give me two records and I'll give you the universe."



Zoo electronic music show at Haidian Park

Photo by Liu Wenbo

City's first professional muay Thai fight happens next month

By Zhang Dongya

Muay Thai enthusiasts in Beijing are holding their breath for Battlefield X1 "Supremacy," the first professional muay Thai fight in town to be held November 11 at the China World Hotel. The event is also the first in China to be endorsed by the World Professional Muay Thai Federation (WPMF).

The Battlefield X series aims to present the world's best fighters of Muay Thai. Competitors in Beijing include Thailand's Ponsak, the reigning World Muay Thai champion; France's Christian Macia, the Sanda Kickboxing World Cup champion; China's top fighters from Team Aohaolin; and Xu Aihui, the country's first and only female professional muay Thai fighter.

Beijing's Black Tiger Club Hero, opened earlier this year, is the only place in town that provides professional training for muay Thai, a style of kicking. The club's founder Vince Soberano, from the US, is an eight-time



The city's muay Thai fighters prepare for next month's contest.

Photo provided by Black Tiger Hero

world champion who will also participate in "Supremacy."

"They carefully selected the best fighters in China to put on the best show for this pioneering fight. I feel honored to be here with the best fighters and that's one of the reasons I made the decision to also fight in the battle," Soberano said.

The 45-year-old is expected

to face a strong opponent who is a fellow American. "The fight will help me get ready for my big fight in Japan in January," he says, referring to a world championship sponsored by the King of the Cage (KOTC), the top Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) competition that originated in southern California.

In "Supremacy," 20 fighters

from seven countries compete in 10 bouts for two championship belts. Seven of the participants are from China.

Thirty-year-old Xu, China's lone female muay Thai professional, got into the martial art two years ago. She is expected to make a good showing at the Beijing tournament, ahead of a major fight at the King's Cup in December, Thailand's biggest muay Thai competition.

Club Hero is planning a tie-up with King of the Cage next year: to co-sponsor several muay Thai tournaments in China.

"We hope this first muay Thai fight in the country will be successful so that we can develop more and longer-term collaboration with them," Joe Qiao, Club Hero's spokesman, said.

"Supremacy" is being held in part to support charity: proceeds from the fight will be donated to China Children Insurance Foundation (CCIF), which works with children and orphans in impoverished areas.

Event

Pink dress day

Wear pink today to show your support to the United PINK Campaign, which promotes breast cancer awareness and prevention. Show your community spirit, dress creatively and email photos of yourself in pink to organizers. You might just find yourself on the United PINK Campaign's website.

When: October 23

Email: Pink@ufh.com.cn

Website: pink.ufh.com.cn.

Talk on Le Divan alternative fashion

Guest speakers Aurelien Lecour and Tony Saint Hua have decided to provide an alternative to popular fashion trends by creating Le Divan, a small workshop in town that produces couture with high-quality craftsmanship.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: October 23, 6:30-7:45 pm

Tel: 6438 6675

Cost: Free

Release of Tommy Emmanuel's album

Guitar legend Chet Atkins inspired Tommy Emmanuel to pick up the guitar as a child. Decades later, Atkins himself became one of Emmanuel's biggest fans. In 1999, Atkins honored Emmanuel with the title "Certified Guitar Player" for his lifetime contribution to the American music industry, an honor shared by only three other people.

After a recent break following an exhausting tour, Emmanuel is back in the circuit. Center Stage, a CD-DVD set of a live performance at the Sierra Nevada Brewery in Chico, California, and filmed in high definition, will be released in Beijing today.

Where: Peking University Hall, 5 Yiheyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: October 23, 7-9 pm

Tel: 6417 7845

Wit stage drama

In her extraordinary first and only play, Margaret Edson created a work that is as intellectually challenging as it is emotionally impactful. Vivian Bearing, a professor of English Literature who has spent years studying and teaching the difficult metaphysical sonnets of John Donne, has been diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer. Her approach to the study of Donne is aggressively probing and rational. But during the course of her illness and her stint in an experimental chemotherapy program, the fearsome teacher becomes herself a subject to be taught to medical students.

Where: Penghao Theater, 35 Dongmianhua Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: October 23-25, 7:30-9:30 pm

Tel: 6400 6472

Cost: 70-120 yuan

(By Wei Ying)

Digging out the past Pace Beijing Gallery reopens with Zhang

By He Jianwei

Big heads, pale eyes, and subtle changes in hairstyle drop little hints about intimate characteristics and stifled emotions. And that is how Zhang Xiaogang's *Bloodline* series, is recording his life.

In his latest exhibition at Pace Beijing Gallery, his sculptures, installations and steel-plate paintings dredge his memory to unearth life as it was in the 1990s.

"I'm not a historian. I don't care about what exactly happened. I'm just interested in the (emotional) truth. This exhibition is my reflection on the fragments of my life," Zhang says.

"The future is vague once more, and today is still just another wait without dreams. Perhaps time is a container for souls – (one) designed by people to mock life and exaggerate reality?" the artist wrote down his anxieties about the future in a giant bronze notebook, the centerpiece of the exhibition.

The title of the exhibition, "Records", is derived from Records of the Great Historian, a Han Dynasty (206 BC – 220 AD) text. But Zhang's records are a reflection of his never-ending quest to explore history.

His diaries are transcribed onto a dozen steel plates at the exhibition, each painted with everyday scenes of his bathroom, study and bedroom.

In his sculptures, the artist selects everyday objects that have played an important role in his life: fountain pens, a giant candle, a notebook and light bulbs. Another of his displays shows 60 cinder blocks with ink bottles, discarded transistor radios, black-and-white TV sets and thermoses crammed into their holes.

Hometown of ideas

For Zhang, painting comes easier

than writing. The pressure to create diaries for each of his pieces plunged him into desperation. "I couldn't write a single word the first two days. I felt exhausted," he says.

To find inspiration, he looked to his hometown: Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province.

The year of 1992 and he was in an abyss of desperation when he traveled to Germany. "I sat down in front of his (Van Gogh's) work the whole afternoon. I didn't know how to paint and what I would draw," he says.

The next fall, Zhang returned to Kunming to consider the changes he had made to his painting style – but the unexpected happened.

He found an album of family photographs taken in the 1960s and 1970s. "We all lived 'in a big family'. The first lesson we had to learn was how to protect ourselves and hide our experiences from the prying eyes of others, while at the same time living in harmony," he says.

That was what inspired the *Bloodline* series, the pieces by which he made a

name for himself in contemporary art.

The portraits in *Bloodline* are taken from an old photo of his mother. "You can find in my works that each character – father, mother, son and daughter – has a similar face," he says.

His idea to combining painting with prose also came from his hometown.

"It is strange that one day this idea popped into my head and wouldn't leave until I started on the new series," he said.

Fossils of memory

Zhang uses subtle objects to convey how he remembers things: from light spots and trails of tears to skylines and overhead electrical wires that travel freely across the canvas. Even objects usually ignored, like lamp cords and electrical cables, are part of the overall composition.

"These are all things familiar to me or that I was used while growing up," he says. "Most (of the objects) are only 20 to 40 years old, yet modern people see them like fossils."

Sticking the objects into cinder blocks makes them appear more fossil-like,

though many viewers have come away with different interpretations—especially those from the West.

"Uli Sigg (former Swiss ambassador to China and a major contemporary art collector) thought each cement block was like a gravestone and the objects were dug out from the grave. That explanation works too," Zhang says.

The artist also etched the lyrics of the Western world's greater singers – Leonard Cohen, Pink Floyd, The Doors and Michael Jackson onto the sides of the bricks. Their music was part of the collective youth of Zhang and his peers.

In a diary entry from July 23, he wrote of his depressing years in Chongqing.

"It was about the same time, the same season, a little more than a decade ago. The sky would begin to darken every day at around two in the afternoon and it rained. I would need to turn on the light very early. I listened to the raindrops hitting the plastic canopy and leaves in trees, looked at the damp soil and weeds in the yard and at large rats running freely. And at the time, the music I played with my

little stereo... I liked to listen to get tired.

Pleasure

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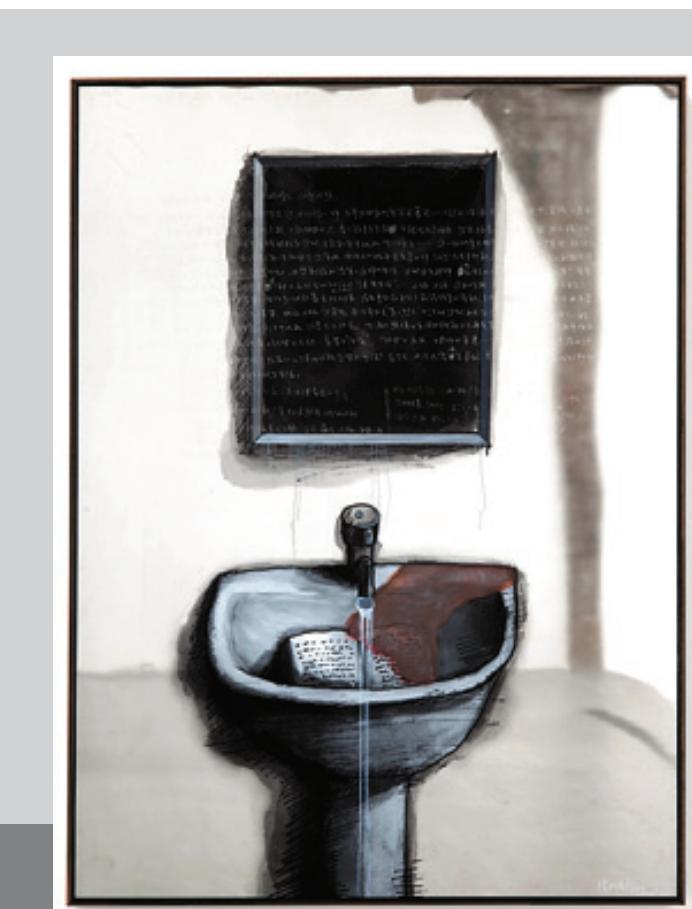
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Green Wall – Restroom



Fountain Pen No.1



The Record No.2 – The



Green Wall – Baby Room



Green Wall – Corner



Lamp No.2

The Records
Zhang Xiaogang Solo Exhibition

Where: Pace Beijing, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu,
When: Until November 15, daily except Monday, 10 am
Admission: free
Tel: 5978 9781

e past g Xiaogang

gang, famous for his
980s and 1990s.
ent of that time that

eo was always Pink Floyd. I especially like the album *The Wall*, I could listen to it hundreds of times and never get tired of it."

e from sorrow
g's diaries are an obvious link to China's tradition of letter writers. Some traditional painters often inserted poems or calligraphy to accompany their finished paintings as a way to record and express the mood during the time of creation. "In fact, the text and the painting constitute a complete work of art. I am not (as) good at calligraphy, so I write with my pen," Zhang says. He finished his diaries within two

years, reflecting back, if there is a happiness in life, I think it must be inextricably linked to my sorrows," he says.

An exhibition is hardly an exercise in memory: for Zhang, it has been an opportunity to trace his true personal experience. To continue to reflect on, examine and question himself, and ultimately



Calligraphy Record No.61



Chaoyang District
— 6 pm



Green Wall – View outside the Window

Photos provided by Pace Beijing

Bubbles and gambling on the American dream

By Charles Zhu

The way subprime crises, housing bubbles and financial meltdowns seem to sneak up on the US may puzzle casual observers. But to people in the real estate industry, it is hardly a mystery.

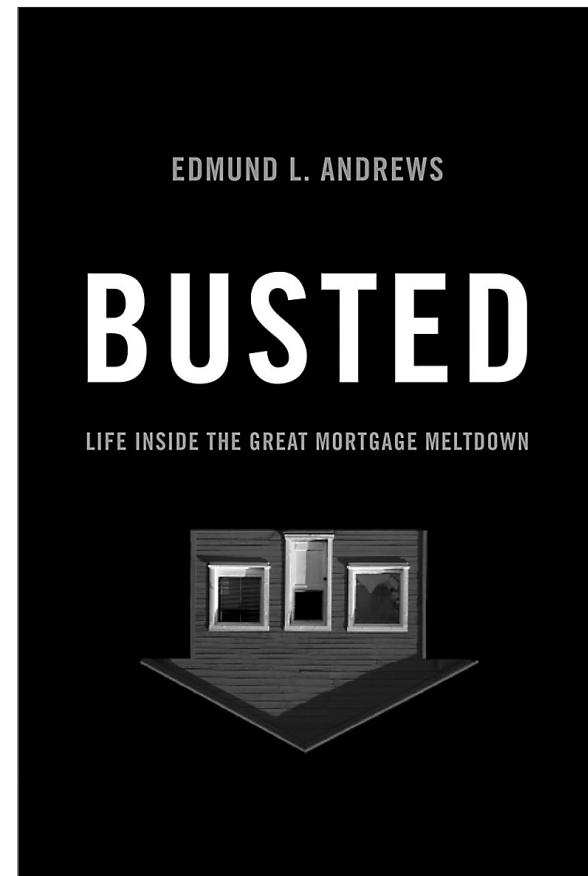
Edmund L. Andrews recalls his personal experiences in the great financial war in *Busted: Life Inside the Great Mortgage Meltdown* (220 pp, W.W. Norton & Company, \$25.95).

Andrews, a financial reporter for *The New York Times*, records concisely and lucidly how the banks and hedge funds made home loans to people who had no money whatsoever. He makes a vivid description of the brokers specializing in "unusual situations," that is to say, how to procure a half-million-dollar mortgage for someone who has no "stated income."

What is interesting and special about Andrews' book is that he, with an annual salary of over \$100,000 (682,000 yuan) was one of those millions of Americans who were descending into the abyss of financial quicksand. Thanks to mortgage bankers, he got the "three-bedroom cottage at the end of a tree-lined lane" in suburban Maryland he has always dreamed of having. He offered nearly half a million dollars for a house he has not even seen.

There was also love. He asked for the hand of his new wife, Patty, "brainy, regal, sexy, fiery and eclectic," over the phone, before they have even kissed.

"The fever for romance and the speculative fever to get rich



have a lot in common," he said. He asked himself, "Why had I tried to keep up the image of a conventional suburban family man, when nothing about my situation was conventional?" Both Andrews and Patty left their long-term spouses and "proudly risked everything to be together" in a "glorious gamble."

Andrews has often wondered how he wound up at the brink of foreclosure. "The short answer is

that, first, I was divorced and desperately in love and eager to get remarried. I was carrying huge child-support payments and so I was in a very delicate, fragile financial situation but wanted to buy a house and start this new chapter in my life," he says.

The longer answer to that question was he had lenders falling over themselves to give him half a million dollars.

"They were begging to lend

me the money. They didn't care what my situation was. They didn't care how I might or might not be able to repay it," he says.

"And they were actually willing to give me a good rate."

He was amazed at what was possible. "I didn't even tell them what my income was," Andrews writes. "I literally left that income box blank and they went ahead with it anyway, strictly, entirely on the basis of the fact that I had a good credit score at the time, and that I had a job, and, basically, I was breathing," he says.

"It was the biggest gamble of my life."

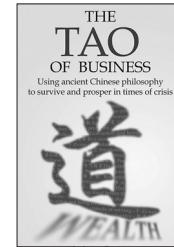
When Andrews found himself unable to make ends meet, he turned to his credit card. "To my horror, it wasn't long before I realized we were running up about \$2,000 a month, on average, in credit card debt. And it quickly began to overwhelm us."

"I really don't think I need to apologize for my mistakes because the country was in a situation at that moment where the whole financial system was enticing and enabling and encouraging everybody to borrow as much as they could," he says. "And the decisions that were made at the lender level and the Wall Street level were far more cynical and reckless than anything an individual consumer could have done."

Andrews is seven months behind on his mortgage payments and says he doubts whether he will be able to keep his house. "I think, one way or another, we'll probably have to move. I've got the love of my life and that is worth a lot."

Earnshaw Books book listing

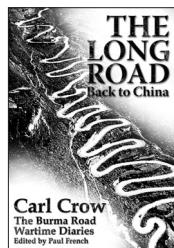
Earnshaw Books recommends the following bestsellers to *Beijing Today* readers. Find them at the Bookworm, Chaterhouse or earnshawbooks.com.



The Tao of Business

By Ansgar Gerstner, 184pp, Earnshaw Books, 140 yuan

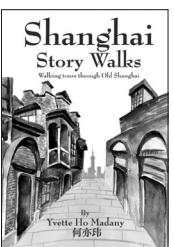
Ansgar Gerstner, born in Germany, is a martial arts trainer and executive coach. Long fascinated by Taoist philosophy, he writes about the inspiration the Tao can provide to modern businesspeople. Gerstner explains the Tao's timeless principles and provides a unique insight into the challenges of contemporary business and the forces of human nature underpinning them. Discover ancient wisdom and how to apply it with this fresh, simple guide.



The Long Road Back to China

By Carl Crow, 248pp, Earnshaw Books, 140 yuan

In 1939, Carl Crow – an American who lived in Shanghai for 25 years – traveled up the Burma Road from Rangoon to Chongqing for *Liberty* magazine. The road was China's vital but perilous 1,154-kilometer lifeline to the outside world. In the country's wartime capital, Crow found himself in the most heavily bombed city on earth in 1939. He witnessed the daily struggle of the Chinese people under Japanese bombardment and interviewed China's most senior government figures.



Shanghai Story Walks

By Yvette Ho Madany, 148pp, Earnshaw Books, 140 yuan

Step back into old Shanghai with these scenic and history-laden walks and relive the lives of its elite. The hopes and dreams of taipans, politicians, actors, spies and dreamers can still be seen in the city's grand, gracious and gaudy landmarks. Guide Yvette Ho Madany, born in Shanghai and educated in the US, her current residence, has organized charity walks for foreigners in Shanghai to benefit migrant children and writes for Shanghai's expat magazines.

(By Zhang Dongya)

Yu Dan explains Eastern wisdom to the world

By Zhang Dongya

With 10 million copies sold, Yu Dan's new take on Confucius is one of the world's best-selling books on Chinese culture. *Confucius from the Heart: Ancient Wisdom for Today's World* sold 10 million copies internationally, which is considered "one of the best-selling books on Chinese culture in the international book market."

The book, published by Zhonghua Book Company, was selected at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2009 as one of the representative books of China, this year's Guest of Honor country. Its German Edition was released at the Fair.

So far, the book has four English editions, with the Chinese mainland edition (translated by Estger Tyldesley, 187pp, Zhonghua Book Company & Macmillan) published in July as the cheapest at 58 yuan.

Yu, 41, is a professor under the School of Arts and Media at Beijing Normal University. She has become a household name in China since lecturing on *The Analects of Confucius* on CCTV's prime time program *Lecture Room* in 2006. The transcripts of those talks were used in developing this text.

The book explains the wisdom of *The Analects*, a major text of Confucian philosophy that has dominated China's intellectual and spiritual culture for 2,500 years. Yu digests Confucius' theory to produce something usable by everyone. She says Confucius can help people to stay grounded, understand the hectic world and live fuller lives.

As a transcript, the book keeps the tone and style of her speech. The book is easy to follow and reveals truths between pages of interpretation

and self-questioning.

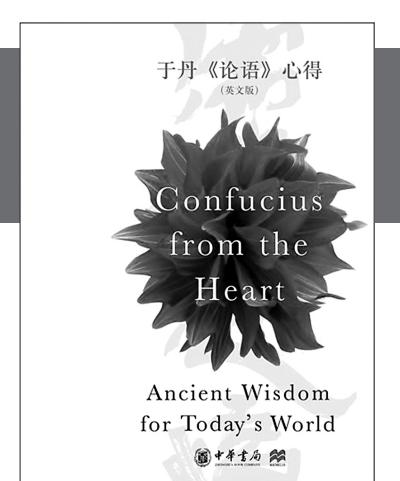
It also cites the original words of Confucius, which readers can then reference in *The Analects*.

Some questioned Yu's understanding of the sage, and claimed her attempts to apply his wisdom to modern problems were a stretch, but Yu said the core of *The Analects* is the simple unspoken truths everyone knows in his or her heart.

"Perhaps the value of this classical text is not in rituals and reverence that inspire awe and fear, but in its inclusiveness

and fluidity, the wisdom in which so many people have immersed themselves down the ages, so that every life and every individual, though perceiving it differently and following different paths, can arrive at last at the same final goal," Yu wrote in the book's foreword.

The book has been published in English, Japanese and Korean. Publisher Yu Jin from Zhonghua Book Co. said the company has contracts to produce 26 editions in 21 languages. Most editions are slated for release next year.



Ancient Wisdom
for Today's World

中华书局

City's sports clubs send discs flying



Jim Kirchhoff, captain of Big Brother, started to play ultimate 13 years ago.

Photo by heymay

By Wang Yu

Grasslands have long been an idealized venue for soccer matches, baseball games, barbecues and music festivals. But now the rolling hills and level plains are playing host to a new game: ultimate.

Ultimate is a US sport with a 40-year history, but it has only recently penetrated the China scene. Most Chinese people regard flying discs as a children's toy, but college students know differently.

Some big cities have multiple teams, and there have been a few national tournaments organized by the players. But without an official association to regulate the sport in China, it is hard to secure sponsors and promote the sport.

The ultimate sport

It is a sunny autumn day in Beijing. The breeze is light. It is the perfect time for sports. On the playground of Dulwich College, Big Brother team is playing ultimate against students from the Tianjin Institute of Physical Education.

Organized by Jeff Orcutt, an American player and the administrator of beijingultimate.com, the event includes senior matches and training programs for beginners. There are no judges in the game and self-discipline is required of every player.

The rules of the game were established by the Ultimate Players Association, a non-profit organization founded in 1979 that serves as the governing body of the sport in the US.

"We hold events like this with the players from Tianjin about three times a year. My favorite part of the game is to see people playing at something I organized," Orcutt says.

The ultimate fan moved to China in 2003 and now works at an accounting firm. He has been playing for six years and began managing beijingultimate.com two years ago. As one of several ultimate sites in Beijing, beijingultimate.com contains training information, match reports and a forum.

"I don't really know who founded the site. It is a position that has been passed down many times," he says.

Kelly Yang, a woman who plays for the Bang club, another local team with mostly Chinese players, learned about the sport in college.

"As far as I know, the first team was formed at Tsinghua University by an American teacher named Russell in 2001. At that time, there was no one to play ultimate with so he started teaching students. Now there are five main teams in Beijing, including the teams from Tsinghua University, Air Kazak from Minzu University of China, Hang-time from Beihang University, Bang and Big Brother," Yang says.

Most players got their start by playing with teachers at college. But the sport has only taken off in Beijing, Tianjin, Shenzhen, Hong Kong and Ningbo. Beijing and Tianjin compete often, as do Shenzhen and Hong Kong. In Ningbo, the University of Nottingham's China branch is the base of the local scene.

Volunteers step up

Balence Wang works at a Shenzhen bank. He is well known in China's ultimate scene as the founder of cupa.cn, the most professional ultimate site in the country. Wang also created the game's Chinese name: jixian feipan.

Wang heard of the game in 1998 on TV, but only saw his first ultimate match when he was going to school in Melbourne, Australia.

"There was a club called Monash Ultimate Frisbee at our school. I started to play after I returned to Shenzhen in December, 2005. In the beginning there was no one around me who knew the game till I found a more experienced player online. We started a QQ group to get more people involved," Wang says.

He started cupa.cn in 2006, the year Wang says ultimate really took off. It was also the first year for the China Ultimate Open in Tianjin, of which Wang was the organizer. Most of the teams consisted of foreign players.

"The game reached a turning point [that year]. Before that ... the sport was still niche entertainment in foreign communities. [The China Ultimate Open] exposed more Chinese people to the sport. Big events such as the Beijing Olympics also helped, as they returned attention to outdoor leisure activities," Wang says.

In Asia, the best ultimate events are held in well-developed countries like South Korea and Singapore. The local foreign players have an easier time playing at these events, because most have a comparatively easy time obtaining the necessary visas. Chinese teams rarely take part in the competitions because few players can bear the travel expenses.

The 2008 and 2009 China Ultimate Opens were organized by Kelly Yang and Jeff Orcutt in Beijing. Without sponsors, the players were left to pay for travel, venue rental and lodging on their own. Five Ultimate, an American Ultimate sporting goods brand, help Big Brother a lot. The brand was founded by Zahlen Titcomb, a player who used to live in Beijing and played with the local teams. However, other teams and promoters like Wang had to manage financial affairs alone.

"I've tried to co-operate with some companies, but it is hard to convince them. Most of them have never heard of the sport and are suspicious about why we want money. Fortunately, there is X-COM, the first professional manufacturer of flying disks in China. X-COM helped to build cupa.cn and sponsors some games," Wang says.

But one sponsor is hardly enough for the whole scene.

Orcutt hopes to cooperate with local high schools to train more young players. "In the Philippines, ultimate is popular with high school students. If we can copy that training system in Beijing, it would be a huge step," he says.

Unlike other sports, ultimate does not have an official association within China – a problem that makes sponsors even more wary. "Foreign players only introduced the sport to China. Local organizers are the ones who have to popularize it," Wang says.

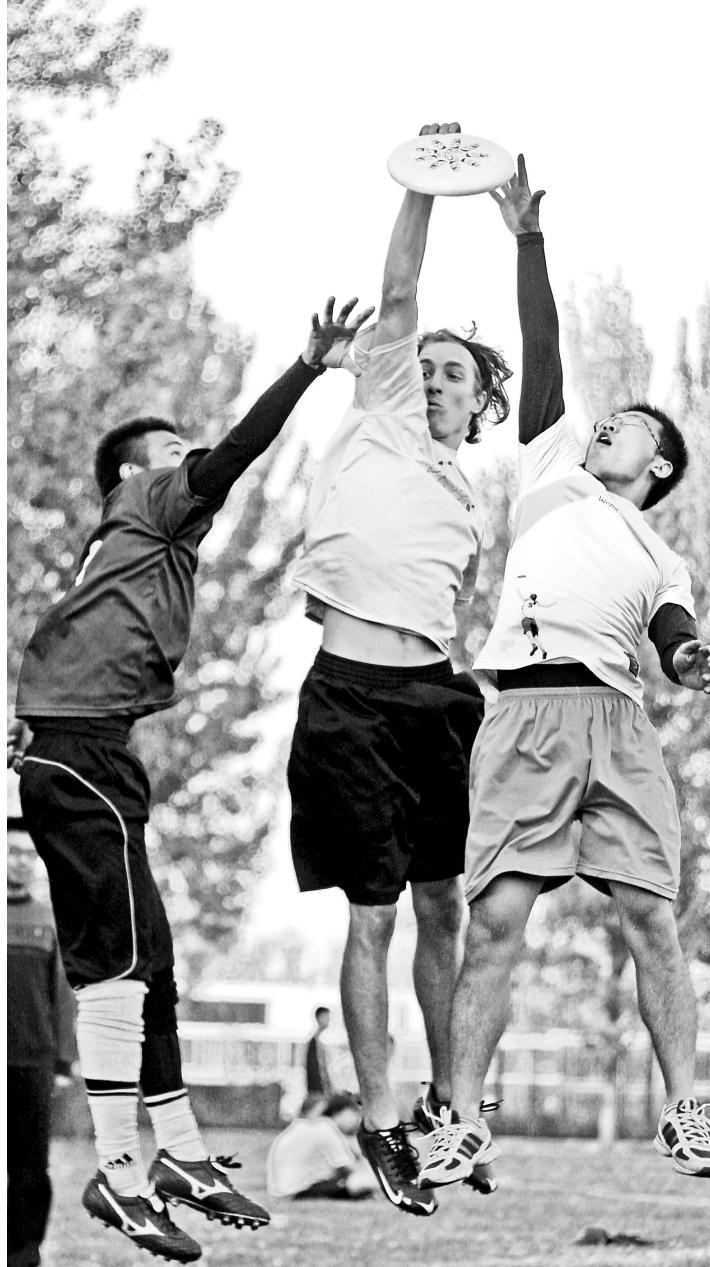
Though his day job is busy, he rarely misses any training sessions and matches. His free time is spent updating the website. "I love this game; its spirit of mutual respect keeps me going," he says.

What is ultimate?

Ultimate is a limited-contact team sport played with a 175-gram flying disc. The object of the game is to score points by passing the disc to a player at the opposing end zone, similar to the end zone in American football and rugby. Players may not run while holding the disc.

The sport used to be called ultimate Frisbee, but the latter word was dropped because Frisbee is a trademark for flying discs made by Wham-O toys: its competitor Discraft produces the standard discs used in ultimate.

There were 4.9 million ultimate players in the US in 2008.



The playground of Dulwich College has played host to senior matches and training programs for beginners. There are no judges in the game and self-discipline is required of every player.

Photos by Song Nannan

Spotlight on new creations



Ma Jia, the curator of Original Design Circle

Workshop at The Village showcases original Chinese designs

By Annie Wei

The square-kilometer workshop run by Beijing Original Design Promotion Association (BODA) is a new addition to The Village in Sanlitun.

The workshop, named Original Design Circle, features the creations of more than 50 Chinese designers tapped by BODA, which was established in late 2008 to promote original designs both home and abroad. Many of the shop's pieces are quirky, and a third of its merchandise is updated every two weeks.

Ma Jia, BODA's secretary and Original Design Circle's founder and curator, introduced some of the products to *Beijing Today*.



Kiddo chair, 1,808 yuan each

**Child-friendly sofas and chairs**

Beijing Today applauds Shi Zhenyu's sofas and chairs. The pieces are practical and come in lively colors. The family sofa costs 4,800 yuan and the Shun junior chair is priced 1,800 yuan. The chair comes in different colors.



Clock, 780 yuan



Ceramic radio, 388 yuan

Fusion furniture

A number of the workshop's designers were inspired by traditional Chinese kung fu, poetry and philosophy. Chairs by Wu Wei and Liu Tienan combine contemporary elements with characteristics of Chinese charm philosophy. Each costs 30,000 yuan.



Kung fu chair, 30,000 yuan



Hand warmer, 850 yuan

Keeping childlike wonder

"Kidult" refers to an adult with a kid's heart, which serves as an inspiration to designer Liu Feng. His furniture tries to reflect the world of a kidult: in it there is no "sophistication" and "worldliness," only minimalism and simple joys.

A kidult's attitude toward life reflects simplicity and easy cheer. Perhaps this can be seen as sagacity in another form as most modern urban designs appear too cold and hard. Liu tries to create space to nurture people's innocent and child-like side.

A graduate of the Central Academy of Art and Design, Liu has done a variety of design work, including sculpture art-research, landscape design, device art and in-depth pan-urban phenomena survey.

As the founder of PEP Design Company, Liu witnessed the "warm-up period" of the country's contemporary art and design industry. And as a co-founder of Brand League of Chinese Household Designs, he boasts of an extensive influence in the country's household design sphere. The cheery "post-contemporary proverb" has become a running theme in his designs.

**Environmentally friendly concrete**

Wang Hao, who has a doctorate in architecture and city culture from the Central Academy of Fine Arts, produced stationery incorporating environmentally friendly concrete (130 to 220 yuan).

Pen holder, 220 yuan



Are you kidult series, starting from 10,000 yuan

Brand ALANYIP

The workshop has a wide collection of pieces by Alan Yip, a Hong Kong designer, including a chic radio (220 yuan), wall clocks (780 yuan) and fashionable watches (980 yuan). One of his product lines is named ALANYIP.

Yip graduated with a bachelor's degree in industrial design from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in 1987.

Yip owns more than 40 patents for designs and inventions and has been invited to design exhibitions in Holland, England, Japan and Korea. His works have appeared in museums, books and the mass media.

Original Design Circle

The spacious workshop not only exhibits designer pieces, it also leases space.

Next month, BODA will team up with Peche Kucha in an original design discovery event that expects to draw 500 participants. Locals and expats who are interested in design can submit their works here. Who knows if you will draw the judges' attention and become the next big thing in design.

Where: SLG 10, The Village, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 9 am – 10 pm
Contact: 6415 2472

Email: boda@chinesedesign.org

Photos provided by BODA

New

Festival of Sichuan food and international cuisine

By Annie Wei

With a dozen new international hotels along East Chang'an Avenue, the historical area's choices for business lunches, dinners and late-night drinks have improved.

The Voyage of International Cuisines (VIC), on the sixth floor of Sofitel Wanda, is one of the hotel restaurants working hard to offer quality food. Its cozy and bright atmosphere is punctuated by a collection of decorative pieces from metropolises such as Paris, Tokyo, Mumbai, Rome and New York.

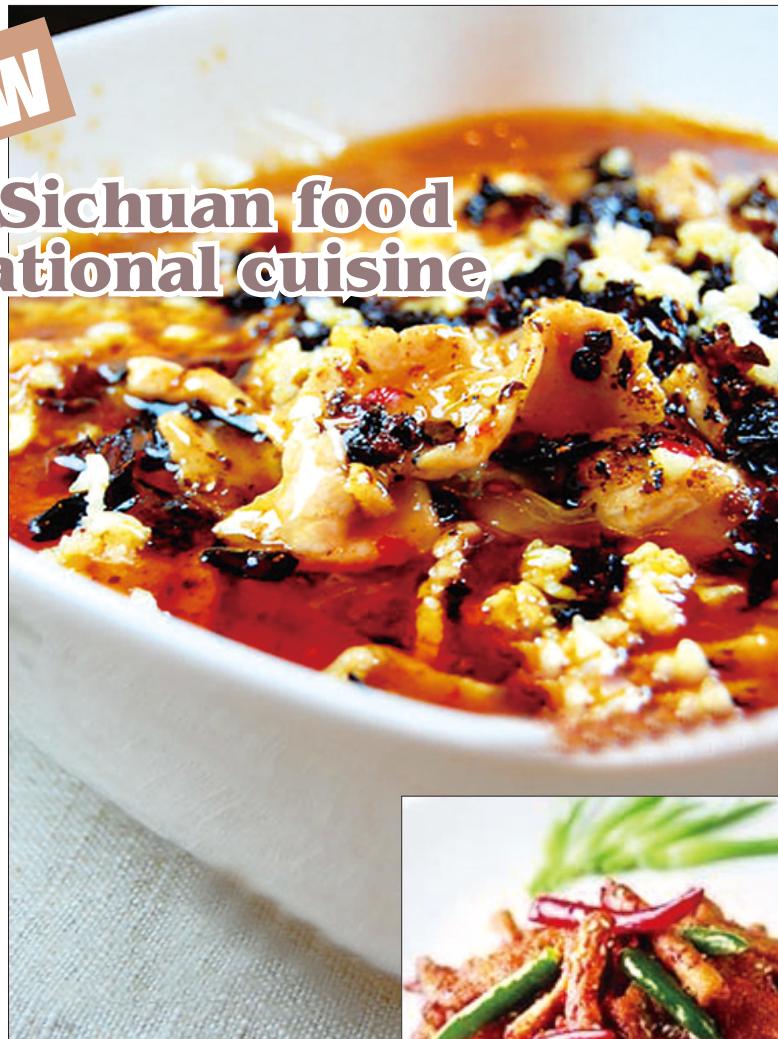
Its Cantonese chicken soup and India chicken wings are highly recommended. The soup, which is ideal at the end of a hard day's work, is light but with a satisfying flavor. The India chicken is tender and comes with a sweet and sour mango sauce. The restaurant also serves seafood and pasta.

VIC's desserts are one-of-a-kind and carry the mark of France's renowned Lenotre Culinary Institute. Sofitel Wanda is the only place in Beijing allowed to use the Lenotre name.

Next week, the restaurant will hold a week-long Sichuan Cuisine Festival starting October 26. Chef Paul Zhang will fly in from the hotel's Chengdu branch to whip up dinner in an open kitchen. Customers will see the elements that go into creating authentic Sichuan cuisine: the various cooking techniques, ingredients and types of spiciness (dry hot, oily hot, flushed hot, pungent hot, sweet hot and fragrant hot). People who cannot tolerate spicy food need not worry; Zhang will have something for you.

The chef's specialties include sauteed goose intestines with peppers, sauteed poached pork with leek, black bean paste and peppers, and boiled fish in spicy sauce.

There will be a raffle during the Sichuan Cuisine Festival. The first prize is



Boiled meat in spicy sauce

a complimentary stay in a hotel suite, a two-hour couple's massage at the hotel's spa, two breakfasts, afternoon tea, champagne dinner and Sunday brunch.

VIC is going to upgrade its signature champagne to a Perrier Jouet Grand Brut. Drink your fill at the restaurant's free-flow champagne Sunday brunches.

Voyage of International Cuisines (VIC)

Where: 6/F Sofitel Wanda Beijing, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: noon - 2 pm, 6-10:30 pm

Tel: 8599 6666

Cost: 198 yuan plus a 15 percent surcharge for lunch; 288 yuan plus a 15 percent surcharge for dinner (weekdays); 288 yuan plus a 15 percent surcharge for lunch; 378 yuan plus a 15 percent surcharge for dinner (weekends)



Sauteed goose intestines with peppers

Photos provided by Sofitel Wanda

cent surcharge for dinner (weekdays); 288 yuan plus a 15 percent surcharge for lunch; 378 yuan plus a 15 percent surcharge for dinner (weekends)

New

Serious French fine dining

By Annie Wei

Le Pre Lenotre is another option for diners out there who crave French fine dining. A sister restaurant of Paris' highly regarded Le Pre Catelan, Le Pre Lenotre has gained a reputation for its sumptuous food, genuine Parisian baguettes and attentive service.

For an appetizer, try the salmon marinated with beetroots and ginger, blinis with lime cream (108 yuan); foie gras medium-cooked in a terrine, "apple pear" chutney with ginger and bitter cocoa, brioche bread and mendicants (138 yuan); or lobster poached in fish consomme with crispy Roman salad, quail egg and black olive tapenade and tomato sherbet (268 yuan).

The restaurant's business set menu (488 yuan), which features four dishes and dessert, is highly recommended. The



Chocolate mousse souffle and home-made vanilla ice cream

Photo provided by Sofitel Wanda

countryside pigeon casserole, bed of craterellus mushrooms and mashed potato created by new chef Yannick Ehksam is superb. The pigeon casserole is juicy and beautifully garnished with dry mushrooms. The sauce lends a strong and briny taste to the mashed potato, balancing its light and smooth flavor.

The dessert of chocolate mousse souffle and home-made vanilla ice cream is sumptuous. The warm, strong chocolate-flavored mousse goes very well with the smooth ice cream.

In French fine dining, the chef needs a proper introduction. Ehksam, a French national, began his career at Restaurant Laurent in Paris when he was 20. Since 2003, he has been associated with various Michelin-star restaurants. From 2004 to 2005, he worked with Michelin-star chef Marc

Veyra at La Ferme de Mon Pére restaurant. Later, while at Le Bateau Ivre, a two Michelin-star restaurant, Ehksam was promoted to Sous Chef de Cuisine.

As for wine, Le Pre Lenotre has its own cellar. For dishes such as escargot with vegetables and lightly truffled cream, roasted scallops on a bed of celery puree, or cep mushrooms fricassee and creamy onion, the restaurant staff suggests getting a 2001 Clos Triguedina (600 yuan per bottle), 2004 St. Joseph (430 yuan per bottle) or 1998 red Maury at 110 yuan per glass.

Le Pre Lenotre

Where: 6/F Sofitel Wanda Beijing, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: noon - 2 pm; 6-10:30 pm

Tel: 8599 6666



Linglong's interior

Photo by Zhou Zhiyi



By Annie Wei

From its name alone – which means exquisite – diners can already tell Linglong serves southern cuisine. Only southern Chinese cuisine is ever described in such a way.

The two-story, spacious restaurant is decorated in a chic pink-and-white motif with red lighting and black chairs.

The place serves a wide array of dishes listed on a thick menu. The waiter introduced the place as a Taiwanese restaurant, but it turned out to be more eclectic.

To start, try the guihua tang'ao (22 yuan), or stuffed lotus roots, which is steamed lotus roots stuffed with glutinous rice and drenched in sweet osmanthus-flavored syrup. This is a typical southern appetizer. The only problem with our dish was that the glutinous rice was obviously a day old and tasted a bit gummy.

Mizhi juanyecai (18 yuan) is raw sliced vegetables wrapped in a paper-thin sheet of rice, which should be dipped in light sauce.

Youling luyuqu (48 yuan) is a whole sliced bass served on a bed of tasty mushrooms. The fish is deboned and tender.

Shengjianbao, or pan-fried stuffed buns (12 yuan for four pieces), is a classic Hangzhou snack. The sesame seeds at the bottom of the bun are pan-fried to a golden brown and are crispy.

Meicai kourou (42 yuan) is stewed pork belly with mui choy, a type of preserved vegetable. Most restaurants make this dish too greasy, but Linglong's version gets a thumbs-up from *Beijing Today*. The mui choy makes a good appetizer, while the pork fat melts in your mouth. Order a bowl of rice to go with this dish and you're all set.

The kumkwat mandarin fruit tea (28 yuan for a pot) goes well with the southern flavors.

The restaurant charges 1 yuan for the wet tissues and napkins it provides.

Linglong Xiaozhen

Where: C-1 Shimao Dasha, Jia 92 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11:30 am - 9 pm

Tel: 8580 9990

Norwegian jazz band returning for two-week China tour

By Wang Yu

Late spring saw Norwegian jazz band Excess Luggage perform for audiences from China's northwest to southeast. Autumn will bring another of Norway's finest jazz exports down the length of the east coast, from Harbin to Hong Kong.

As one of Norway's most energetic jazz bands, The Core is out to change notions of the country's jazz as austere and hymnal. Its music is rooted in acoustic modal jazz from the 1960s, combined with contemporary grooves rooted in funk and rock, resulting in the feel of a large ensemble and the energy of small post-bop improvisational group.

Its high-energy live performances are the foundations on which The Core has built its international reputation, and critics have been raving about the band's shows and albums since its founding nearly a decade ago. With the absence of a guitar, sax melodies often lead

the group's performances.

The four band members – sax player Jorgen Mathisen, pianist Erlend Slettevoll, bassist Steinar Raknes and drummer Espen Aalberg – met in 2001 at the conservatory of music in Trondheim, Norway.

"We knew each other earlier and played together, but not all four of us. When our piano player moved to Trondheim, it all fell together," Aalberg said. "Our songs are always composed by a member of the group. But when we bring a new song to rehearsal, we may change something in the tune to make it fit our sound. It's always about melody –



solo. Who will do the solos we decide on stage. But the solos are always related to the different melodies' moods."

The Core's autumn tour is not the first time it's bringing its melodies to the country. Last year, the group did three concerts in Beijing in a variety of venues: an opera house, a cafe and a university concert hall.

"The most memorable was the last one because we usu-

ally play at jazz clubs in Europe, with an audience of 100 to 200 people. But that one had about 1,400 people. That was kind of a record for us," Aalberg said.

The tour will run from October 25 through November 7, with a Beijing show at Yugongyishan on November 1. The show is sponsored by the Norwegian embassy, which "finds that jazz is a great way to show Norwegian culture," Aalberg said.

The Core China Tour 2009

Where: Yugongyishan, 2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District
When: November 1, 9 pm
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 6404 2711

Upcoming

Exhibition Insignificant Nobility – Fang Shengyi's Photography

Where: 798 Photo Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
When: November 1 – December 1, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6438 1784

Stage in November

Concert

Ensemble Sagittarius Concert

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 4 Zhonghua Lu, Dongcheng District
When: November 1, 7:30 pm
Admission: 60-380 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Maksim Piano Recital

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: November 10, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-1,080 yuan
Tel: 6551 8058

Quatuor Diotima Beijing Concert

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 4 Zhonghua Lu, Dongcheng District
When: November 21, 7:30 pm
Admission: 30-380 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

David Braids Jazz Concert

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 4 Zhonghua Lu, Dongcheng District
When: November 22, 7:30 pm
Admission: 30-380 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Dance

Tenderhook by the Scottish Dance Theatre

Where: Mei Lanfang Grand Theater, 32 Ping'anli Xi Dajie, Xicheng District
When: November 6-7, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-580 yuan
Tel: 5833 1288

ABT Contemporary Ballet Collection's Asia Premiere

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: November 12-13, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-1,080 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Carmen

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: November 28-29, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-1,880 yuan
Tel: 6551 8058

Drama

Romeo and Juliet by the British TNT Theatre

Where: Drama Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: November 9-10, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-480 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Opera

The Magic Flute

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: November 20-23, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-1,080 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

(By Jackie Zhang)

5 Friday, October 23

Exhibition Birds Flying Pass By

Where: Today Art Museum, Building 4, Pingod Community, 32 Baizhan Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until October 24, daily, 10 am – 5 pm
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 5876 0600



Jacaranda 2009

Where: TH Photo Gallery, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Bei Jie, Chaoyang District
When: Until October 30, daily, 10 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 15910633971

Movie

The Chaser

Where: MoBox Books Life, 288 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District

When: 7 pm
Admission: 10 yuan
Tel: 8261 8538

Nightlife

Arch Enemy Live in Beijing
Where: Star Live, 3/F Tango, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng District
When: October 20, 8 pm
Admission: 280-680 yuan
Tel: 6402 5080

Blues! Blues!

Where: Hot Cat Club, 46 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng District
When: 8:30 pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6432 4122

Nightlife

Maya Band Rock Show

Where: Weibozhiyan Club, Room 2308, 3/F North Building, SOHO Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 9 pm
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 5900 0969

Chirens Band

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: 9:30 pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6401 4611

Sunday, October 25

Exhibition String Field – Jiang Dahai Solo Exhibition

Where: Today Art Museum, Building 4, Pingod Community, 32 Baizhan Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until December 8, daily, 10 am – 5 pm
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 5876 0600

World Design Congress

Where: CAFA Art Museum, 8 Huajiadi Nan Jie, Chaoyang

District
When: Until October 30, 9:30 am – 5:30 pm
Admission: 15 yuan
Tel: 6477 1699

Nightlife

Absolute Classic Folk Party
Where: MAO Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: October 20, 8 pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 6402 5080

Su Yu's Concert

Where: Jiangjinjiu Bar, 2

6 Saturday, October 24

Exhibition Forces of Nature: Green Movement in Art – Marlene Tseng Yu Solo Exhibition

Where: Today Art Museum, Building 4, Pingod Community, 32 Baizhan Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until October 31, daily, 10 am – 5 pm

Imprint-Image – Ma Zhiming Solo Exhibition

Where: New Millennium Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until November 1, daily, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6576 5987

Nightlife

Maya Band Rock Show

Where: Weibozhiyan Club, Room 2308, 3/F North Building, SOHO Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 9 pm
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 5900 0969

Beyond the Clouds
Where: Lady Book Salon, 69 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District
When: 7 pm
Admission: Free

Movie

I Served the King of England
Where: Lele Bar (50 meters east of Communication University of China's north gate), Dingfuzhuang, Chaoyang Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 7 pm
Admission: Free

Tel: 6576 5987

John Malkovich
Fanny Ardant
Sophie Marceau
Vincent Perez
Jean Reno
Marcello Mastroianni

Zhongku Hutong (few doors south of The Drum and Bell towers), Dongcheng District
When: 9 pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 8605 0124

Nightlife

Das Leben der Anderen

Where: No. 3 Club, 43 Beisanhuan Xi Lu, Haidian District
When: 3 pm
Admission: 20 yuan (includes a soft drink)

Tel: 8211 5288

European Film Awards
GERMAN FILM AWARDS
AUBREY AWARDS
FESTIVAL DE CANNES
GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS 2007

Marina Gedeck
Ulrich Mühe
Sebastian Koch
Ulrich Tukur

DAS LEBEN DER ANDEREN

von den Regisseuren Florian Henckel von Donnersmark

mit dem Schauspieler Ulrich Mühe

und dem Schauspieler Sebastian Koch

und dem Schauspieler Ulrich Tukur

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Is chronic fatigue keeping you down?

19

Health

By Venus Lee

Feeling tired is common when you work long hours, have family problems or are stressed. But if you are fatigued for six months or more and no known disease is the culprit, you may have chronic fatigue syndrome, the debilitating condition once dismissed as "yuppie flu."

Possible cancer link, virus

A recently discovered virus, xenotropic murine leukemia, was found to be common in patients with prostate cancer or chronic fatigue, according to a new study published in the journal *Science* at the beginning of this month.

Researchers from the US National Cancer Institute analyzed blood taken from 101 chronic fatigue patients and found 68 percent tested positive for the virus, compared with only 3.7 percent of the 218 healthy control subjects.

Some characteristics of the virus match the syndrome's symptoms, researchers said. Many related viruses cause blood vessels around the body to leak, a common symptom in chronic fatigue patients.

Researchers also noted that in mice, a protein that coats the shell of the virus caused the animals' nerves to degenerate. A group of immune cells called natural killer cells, thought to be at the root of chronic fatigue, are known to be susceptible to the virus.

The new research was led by Judy Mikovits at the Whittemore Peterson Institute in Reno, Nevada, US after the virus was reported in 2006 to be present in tumor tissue taken from patients with hereditary prostate cancer.

The new report has inspired hope for a treatment, though its results remain inconclusive and the virus's role poorly understood. "Just detecting it in patients does not prove it is what made them sick; people with the syndrome may have some other underlying problem that makes them susceptible to the virus, which could be just a passenger," said Zhao Yaming, a doctor of neurology at Beijing Friendship Hospital.



Separating fatigue and chronic fatigue

Chronic fatigue has long been a medical mystery and a subject of debate for many doctors. "Workaholics are more vulnerable to the syndrome, but its cause has been unknown and there is no effective treatment," Zhao said.

Since there are no laboratory tests that can diagnose chronic fatigue, the diagnosis is based on symptoms. People with chronic fatigue experience the following:

Fatigue: An overwhelming feeling of tiredness is the main symptom. This varies from day to day, but is present more than half the time. The tiredness makes it impossible to continue normal physical and mental

activities. "People with chronic fatigue may have had a previous infection. They are tired and 'run down' during the infection, and the fatigue continues after the person has recovered," Zhao said.

Cognitive difficulties: The doctor said a typical complaint of people with chronic fatigue is that they have problems with short-term memory but not long-term memory. "People with fatigue may have problems finding or saying a particular word during normal speech," he said.

Tire easily: Chronic fatigue sufferers are excessively tired after doing normal activities that were easy in the past.

Fatigue after sleep: Fatigue patients also complain of fatigue even after long periods of rest or sleep. "Their sleep quality is poor. They have a hard time falling asleep, wake frequently and don't feel refreshed when they do," he said.

Depression: People with chronic fatigue may become depressed because of the difficulty of performing at work or home.

Other symptoms include headaches, muscle aches, recurrent sore throat, a feeling of enlarged glands in the neck, slight fevers, joint pain, difficulty concentrating, night sweats, nausea and loss of appetite, faintness and dizziness.

Prevention

Learning to manage fatigue can help improve your quality of life despite these symptoms. You may work with a rehabilitation specialist who can teach you how to plan activities to take advantage of times when you usually feel better.

The doctor suggests the following to maintain good general health:

1. **Reduce stress.** Develop a plan to avoid or limit overexertion and emotional stress. Allow yourself time each day to relax.
2. **Get enough sleep.** Getting sufficient sleep is essential. In addition to allotting enough time for sleep, practice good sleep habits, such as going to bed and getting up at the same time each day and limiting daytime napping.
3. **Exercise regularly.** You may need to start slowly and build up gradually. But exercising regularly often lessens symptoms. Many people find exercises such as walking, swimming, biking and water aerobics to be helpful. A physical therapist may help you develop a home-exercise program. Stretching, good posture and relaxation exercises also can be helpful.
4. **Pace yourself.** Keep your activity on an even level. If you do too much on your good days, you may have more bad days.
5. **Maintain a healthy lifestyle.** Try to eat a balanced diet, drink plenty of fluids, limit your caffeine intake, stop smoking, get adequate rest and exercise regularly. Find a hobby or career that is enjoyable and fulfilling.

More likely causes of fatigue

"One in five men and one in three women will say they feel tired most of the time, but only a few people really have chronic fatigue syndrome," Zhao said. "Diagnosing chronic fatigue requires ruling out other causes of chronic persistent fatigue, including a stressful lifestyle, cancer or other illnesses."

"It is important to make sure there are no underlying medical conditions which can be cured by the appropriate treatment," he said.

Common causes of fatigue include:

1. **Viral illness:** Recovering from glandular fever, adrenal or thyroid disorders or other viral illness such as HIV, or AIDS
2. **Anemia:** Common in women with heavy periods and can be checked by a blood test
3. **Low thyroid function:** Can be detected by a blood test
4. **Depression:** Can be managed very successfully with mood stabilizers
5. **Chest problems:** Severe asthma, chronic lung disease and tuberculosis
6. **Heart disease:** Heart failure
7. **Uncontrolled diabetes:** Can be detected by urine or blood tests

Sacred space in the hills

Buddha tooth relic and great temples in Badachu

By Zhang Dongya

Badachu, or the Eight Great Sites, features eight Buddhist temples and monasteries scattered across hills in Beijing. One of the eight temples called Lingguang Temple, famous for housing a Buddha tooth relic, has opened to the public for a month-long exhibition. This rare opportunity has attracted hordes of people who braved hours of queuing just to get a glimpse of history.

Badachu provides a good introduction to the history and architecture of ancient Chinese temples. For the outdoorsy types, the hike through the hills is a great bonus.



Thousands of people have flocked to Badachu to see the Buddha tooth relic, which is on a rare public exhibit this month.

A wall carving, behind the Buddha Tooth Relic Stupa, features 500 arhats depicted in various poses.

Display of Buddha tooth relic

Lingguang, or Divining Light, Temple is Badachu's main monastery. It was built in Tang Dynasty (618-907) and given its present name in Ming (1368-1644).

Its most prominent building is the Buddha Tooth Relic Stupa, which houses the precious relic: the only other recognized Buddha tooth relic in the world is in Sri Lanka. The stupa, built in 1964, is seven stories high, and the relic is kept on its second floor.

According to tales, the tooth relic was exhibited in Xi'an in Sui Dynasty (581-618), then sent to Beijing in late Tang. In Liao Dynasty (907-1125), it was housed at Lingguang Temple's Zhaoxian, or Immortal Drawing, Stupa. In 1956, a stupa was specially constructed for the relic. It was transferred there in 1964 once the building was finished.

Lingguang is considered a sacred place by pious Buddhists. Since 1949, the tooth relic has been taken on a tour outside the mainland five times: three times in Burma and once in both Sri Lanka and Hong Kong.

The tooth is on a rare public display in Beijing from October 10 to 30. Huge crowds have flocked to Lingguang, with queues zigzagging from the temple entrance to the stupa. Some came from as far as Southeast Asia and waited for hours to see the religious relic. Others clutched flowers to be offered at the altar.

Great sites hidden in the hills

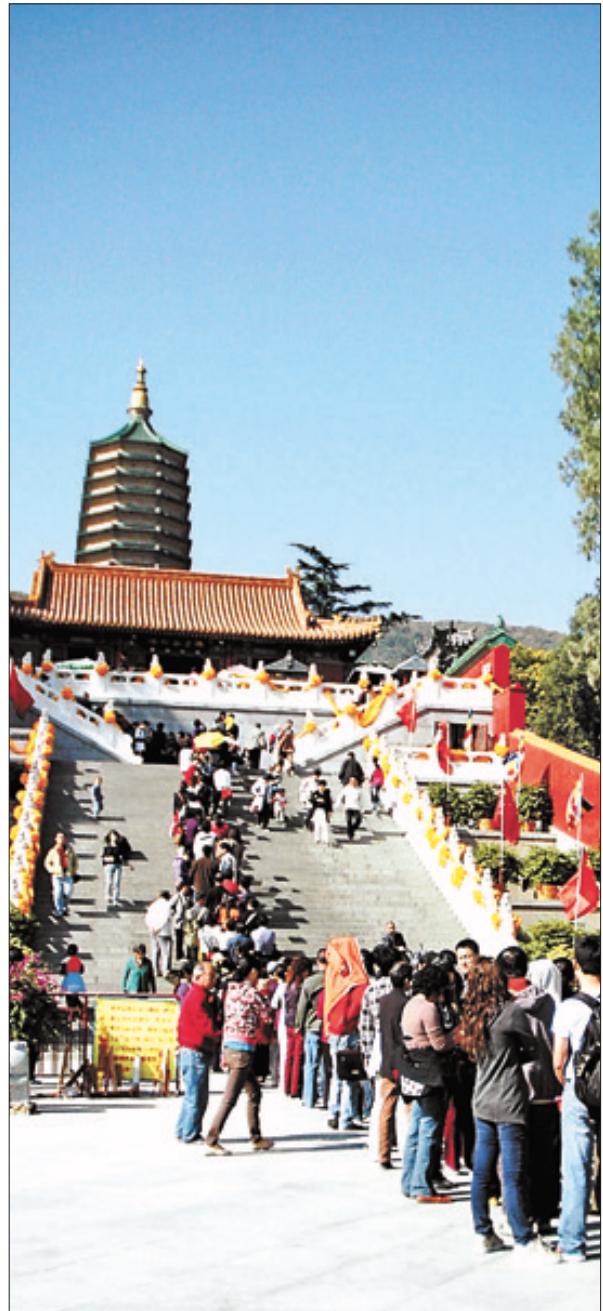
Despite its name, Badachu only has seven "great sites" or great temples; the other, Chang'an Temple, was destroyed during the Cultural Revolution and has not yet been restored.

Besides Lingguang's Buddha Tooth Relic Stupa, Badachu has other tourist attractions. Zhaoxian Stupa, where the tooth relic was worshiped in Liao Dynasty, is now only marked by its foundation. The stupa was destroyed by the Eight-Nation Alliance in 1900, but maintains features of its 800-year-old architecture. Buddhists can be seen circling the ruins while chanting sutras.

Continued on page 21...



Some trees in Badachu are eight centuries old.



Zhaoxian Stupa, destroyed in 1900 and now only marked by its foundation, still maintains features of its 800-year-old architecture.

Photos by Jason Wang

... continued from page 20



Lingguang Temple in Badachu is considered a sacred place by pious Buddhists.



Visitors will discover the best place to get a top view of Badachu while climbing down Baozhu Cave.



Visitors can take colorful cable cars for a quicker way to get down the hill.



People can hang written prayers on old trees at Xiangjie Temple.

Travel information

Getting there: Take bus 347, 389, 489, 622, 972 or 958 to Badachu stop. Alternatively, take Subway Line 1 to Pingguoyuan station, then hop on Bus 972 to Badachu.

If you drive, take Xiwuhuan Lu toward Badachu Exit. Otherwise, take Xisihuan Lu toward Sijiqing Exit, then go along Xingshikou Lu to Badachu.

Badachu scenic spot

Open: 6 am – 7:30 pm (September 1 – November 15)

Admission: 10 yuan; 5 yuan for students (50 yuan for cable car; 50 yuan for slide; or 80 yuan for a cable car and slide ticket)

Buddha Tooth Relic Stupa

Open: Until October 30, daily, 9:11:30 am; 12:30-3 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

A wall carving featuring 500 arhats – a Buddhist who has reached the stage of enlightenment – is behind the Buddha Tooth Relic Stupa. The 25-meter-long wall art was created by more than 40 engravers and completed in 2004 after two years of work. The arhats are depicted in various poses.

Sanshan, or the Three-Hill Nunnery is located among the hills of Cuwei, Pingpo and Lushi. It is a small temple often overlooked by visitors so the scenic site management put up a sign at its entrance, saying the nunnery can be a way to get to Dabei Temple.

Dabei, or Great Mercy, Temple is located on a western hillside facing the east. It is a thousand years old and, like other temples, has three halls: Shanmen Hall, Daxiong Baodian and Yuantong Baodian. Shanmen Hall has a statue of the Four Heavenly Kings of Buddhism; Yuantong Baodian has one of the Buddha; and Daxiong Baodian has three: the Sakyamuni, Bhaisajya and Amitabha buddhas. Ancient trees can be seen in the temple yard, two of which are 800-year-old ginkgo trees.

Regular visitors usually stop at Longquan Nunnery for a cup of tea. Longquan, or Dragon Spring, has five yards and is relatively peaceful compared to other parts of Badachu. It is famous for its natural spring water and built a tea house for guests serving drinks from its springs.

It is quite a long climb up the hill from Longquan to Xiangjie Temple. But people who persevere will be rewarded with the sight of the largest temple in the scenic area.

Xiangjie, or Fragrant World, was built in Tang Dynasty, in 760, and was given its present name in Qing (1644-1911). It has three sections and five yards, each with large halls. The second yard has ancient pines and a drum and bell tower; the fourth has a larger Daxiong Baodian with a statue of Buddha, compared with Dabei Temple's; and the fifth yard has a repository for Buddhist texts. People can hang written prayers on the old trees at the temple; there are now thousands of these which make a breathtaking sight.

There is another long climb involved to get to Baozhu Cave. Along the road is a small temple to the God of Wealth, Guan Yu, one of the generals in the Three Kingdoms Period (220-280). Guan is China's most popular God of Wealth, so this small temple attracts many people.

The entrance to Baozhu, or Previous Pearl, Cave is marked by a decorated archway. The archway is made of wood and is inscribed with calligraphy by Qing-emperor Qianlong. The cave, part of another small temple on the hill, is cramped and has a narrow passage. Inside is an image of the Buddha that is said to dispel ghosts and evil spirits.

The last temple is on another hill. Climbing down from the cave, visitors will find the best place to get a top view of Badachu and to see the sunrise and sunset. It has thus been dubbed, "little Taishan Mountain of West Beijing," referring to Shandong's Taishan, one of the country's most scenic mountains.

This season, the hills are blanketed with trees of varying colors. It is a good place to take in the fall colors.

Visitors who want a quicker way down the hill can take a cable car or the slide.



People who love the outdoors can hike through Badachu's hills.



Xiangjie Temple is the largest temple in Badachu.

Photos by Jason Wang

Dining



Hot chocolate drinks

Come by and try the latest hot chocolate drink creations, perfect for the start of the cold season. From rich and tasty European Chocolate Cocktails to freshly roasted hazelnut flavors, hot Grand Marnier shots a spicy Sichuan pepper hot chocolate, your options are limited only by how much you can drink.

Where: the Flow Lounge & Bar, Swissotel Beijing, 2 Chaoyangmen Bei Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: From October
Tel: 6553 2288 ext. 2107

Savour's open season

Autumn comes with an array of colors, flavors and specialities. Chef Yannick Ehrsam has updated his menu, creating innovative dishes that complement seasonal products.

Where: Le Pre Lenotre, Sofitel Wanda Beijing, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: From October 12

Cost: 148 yuan (lunch set menu), 388 yuan (dinner set menu), subject to 15 percent surcharge
Tel: 8599 6666 ext. 6528



Hairy crab

Enjoy the delicious seasonal specialty of Hairy Crab from Yangcheng Lake. Noble Court offers select hairy crabs at 288 yuan each. The restaurant's set menu, designed by its experienced chef team and priced at 880 yuan per person, includes one steamed hairy crab, a classic Shanghai appetizer combination, braised shark fin soup with seafood served in a pumpkin and stir-fried black pepper beef fillets with sweet peppers, all served with Hua Diao iced tea.

Where: Noble Court, Grand Hyatt Beijing, 1 Dong Chang'an Jie, Dongcheng District

When: October 15 – November 30
Tel: 8518 1234 ext. 6021 or 6024

TANGLA Beijing Joins WORLDHOTELS

TANGLA Beijing, a new five-star flagship hotel in Beijing's Central Administrative and Financial Area, is joining WORLDHOTELS as a Deluxe Collection affiliate. The 380-room hotel is a new landmark in the heart of the city, and is within walking distance of the Financial Street and other major national official bureaus.

TANGLA Beijing offers spacious meeting and banquet space, including 10 function rooms with advanced facilities to accommodate every need of business and leisure guests. It also features six choices of restaurants and bars including Cafe d'Or, The Astral, Leaf Garden and Bacchus Bar.

Where: TANGLA Beijing, 19 Fuxingmen Wai Dajie, Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
Tel: 5857 6688



Gloria Plaza Hotel Wuxi opens next year

Gloria Hotels and Resorts recently finalized the management contract for the Gloria Plaza Hotel Wuxi with Wuxi Shuangyi Property Investment. The new hotel, positioned as a first class superior business hotel, is scheduled to open in mid-2010.

The hotel has 13 floors with restaurants, 200 guest rooms, a rec center, meeting rooms and a main ballroom. The complex will also include a shopping mall, business center, health club, tea house and games room.

Centro at Shangri-La celebrates with Big City Beat

Centro celebrates its sixth anniversary with Australian band Big City Beat. Stunning costumes, sizzling choreography and an impressive repertoire await all. Guests can enjoy the greatest hits from the last three decades and current Top 40 songs. The 10-piece band will also showcase the world's greatest entertainers with each artist's greatest hits.

Where: Shangri-La's Kerry Centre Hotel, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District
When: October 27-31
Tel: 6561 8833 ext. 42

Hilton Beijing Wangfujing wins in Hurun Presidential

Hilton Beijing Wangfujing has received an unequivocal endorsement by the Hurun Report as Top Presidential Suite, Top Executive Lounge and Best Swimming Pool in Wangfujing, adding yet more remarkable accolades to its growing list of notable awards since its opening in April 2009.



Winter saver promotion

This winter, Marco Polo Parkside Beijing has prepared a heart-warming package to reward you for a year of hard work. Make your winter saver reservation at its Best Available Rate and enjoy a complimentary buffet breakfast for two, early check-in at noon, guaranteed late check-out at 4 pm, guaranteed upgrade to the next room level, your choice of pillows, complimentary access to a heated indoor swimming pool and fitness center, 200 yuan voucher or 10 percent off discount for a Spa treatment and double the mileage for stays of two or more nights.

Where: Marco Polo Parkside Beijing, 78 Anli Lu, Chaoyang District
When: November 1 – February 28, 2010
Tel: 5963 6588

Aviation

SilkAir takes over Penang services

Starting December 1, SilkAir, the regional wing of Singapore Airlines, will take over the operation of services between Singapore and Penang, Malaysia. Singapore Airlines currently has a daily morning flight while SilkAir has two daily flights to Penang. The extra flight will allow SilkAir to offer morning, afternoon and evening flights to Penang. Flights are subject to regulatory approvals.

Web: www.silkair.com

FlyNet takes off again

Lufthansa will reintroduce FlyNet, its satellite-based Internet on-board service, in mid-2010 allowing customers to communicate above the clouds via broadband Internet. In addition to wireless Internet access, the new service will permit inflight data transfer over standard GSM/GPRS mobile networks. Lufthansa passengers will also be able to send text messages by mobile phone and transfer data via smartphones like PDAs, iPhones or BlackBerry devices.



Hotel

Thank Funk It's Friday

Celebrate the end of the week in the intimate surroundings of internationally acclaimed Zeta Bar while grooving to the finest in rare soul, funk and disco mixed by funk specialist DJ Florian.

Where: Zeta Bar, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Every Friday, 6 pm onwards
Cost: Free entrance, drinks 50 percent off from 6-9 pm
Tel: 5865 5050

Indonesian cooking class

Join chef Gan in the kitchen to learn how to prepare a three-course Indonesian menu. Watch, take notes and chat as he prepares gado gado; a spicy vegetable and tofu salad; beef rendang; dry beef curry and bur bur pulut hitam, black sticky rice with coconut cream. Cooking class includes dinner, one apron and one complimentary set lunch at the Village Cafe on next visit.

Where: Village Cafe, The Opposite House, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District
When: November 14, 3:30-6 pm
Cost: 288 yuan, subject to 15 percent service
Tel: 6410 5210

(By Sun Feng)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

Poker face not allowed

By Zhao Hongyi

Years ago, when Beijing was preparing to host the 2008 Olympics, the municipal government set up an office to promote the use of English among its population of 13 million. Since then, the office has held English-speaking campaigns biannually, in spring and fall.

Most of the events are successful; they help entice more Chinese people to speak English, something which Beijing badly needs to be recognized as a global metropolis. At the same time, it's inevitable to find Chinglish mistakes committed by even the organizers.

This fall, for instance, organizers put up in some of the major parks posters that said, "Our foreign language-speaking environment is improving everyday!"

Instead of making a declaration, it actually meant to encourage people to participate in the events to improve the capital's multilingual feature. Native English speakers would correct it to say, "Let's improve the environment for learning to speak a foreign language."

In one of the events last Sunday, a native English speaker gave the audience tips on how to improve their English in daily life.

"The most important thing is to practice and speak your English out, loudly," the trainer said. "Remove your poker face and try to discover something new through your words and actions."

Most of the listeners, including me, got lost at "poker face." As soon as I got hold of a dictionary, I looked up the phrase and found out that it refers



to "a face lacking any expression that can be interpreted. This term alludes to the facial expression of a poker player who is expert at concealing his feelings about his hand."

In short, the speaker told his audience to throw themselves with passion into speaking English and not to be afraid of making mistakes.

Many locals despise Chinglish as it damages the English language's "purity" and "originality." But can we really avoid such localizations as Ching-

lish when the world is so huge and diverse? I believe you cannot expect everyone to speak the same language when people come from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

For native English speakers, the best way to improve interpersonal communication is to try their best to understand broken English. Non-native speakers, meanwhile, should try their best to "unbreak" their English by learning the proper words and phrases.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

By Derrick Sobodash

Here is a new rule for the city's aspiring translators: if you have more than three unrelated nouns in a row with nothing connecting them, it might be Chinglish.

But the culprit here is far simpler than official-speak: no, here another translator decided to shelve common sense and whip out his Xinhua Character Dictionary. The result? Goods Ladder Mouth.

Goods Ladder Mouth sounds like a Todd McFarlane Christmas nightmare where a ladder comes out of the darkness, terminating in a man-sized deformed mouth that spits out gift-wrapped boxes full of zombies into an orphanage of babies. Crippled babies.

The mind reels.

The disaster began with the first character: *huo*. This very versatile character can mean currency, goods or anything to do with either. But given a *huochuan* is a freight ship and a *huoche* is a freight train and a *huozi* is a freight airplane, I would bet this has something to do with the word "freight."

Similarly, a *ti* is just something

Goods ladder mouth



Photo by Derrick Sobodash

that helps you go up or down. A *tizi* may be a ladder, but I am going to go out on a limb and guess this is closer to a *dianti*, or elevator: I make this wild assumption because the picture is of an elevator.

The last character *kou* is another one with a dozen meanings, but in this case it is just an enclave, which should

be obvious to even the least meticulous observer given how the wall juts in.

Dropping the obvious, the sign would be better rendered as "Freight Elevator."

It is a shame that a Xidan shopping center spent good money to have this nonsense cast in metal and backlit with neon before asking an English speaker whether it made any sense.

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

1. Become accustomed to make our revenue through printed products

Professor Zhu Shida (ZS): This sentence is wrong because of the erroneous use of the infinitive "to make" following the phrase "accustomed to." As we know, "accustomed to" means used to or in the habit of; it is followed by either a noun or a participle phrase. For example: The farmer is accustomed to hard labor; She is accustomed to jogging daily. When we use the phrase "used to," it follows the same rule: She has gotten used to jogging daily. So, the right way to say this is: We have become accustomed to making our revenue through printed products.

Native speaker Steven Sandor

(SS): The professor's explanation is precise and correct. I have nothing to add to this. The only way to avoid needing a participle phrase would be to completely rewrite the sentence as, We usually earn our revenue through printed products. However, this substantially changes the meaning.

2. Kindergarten students

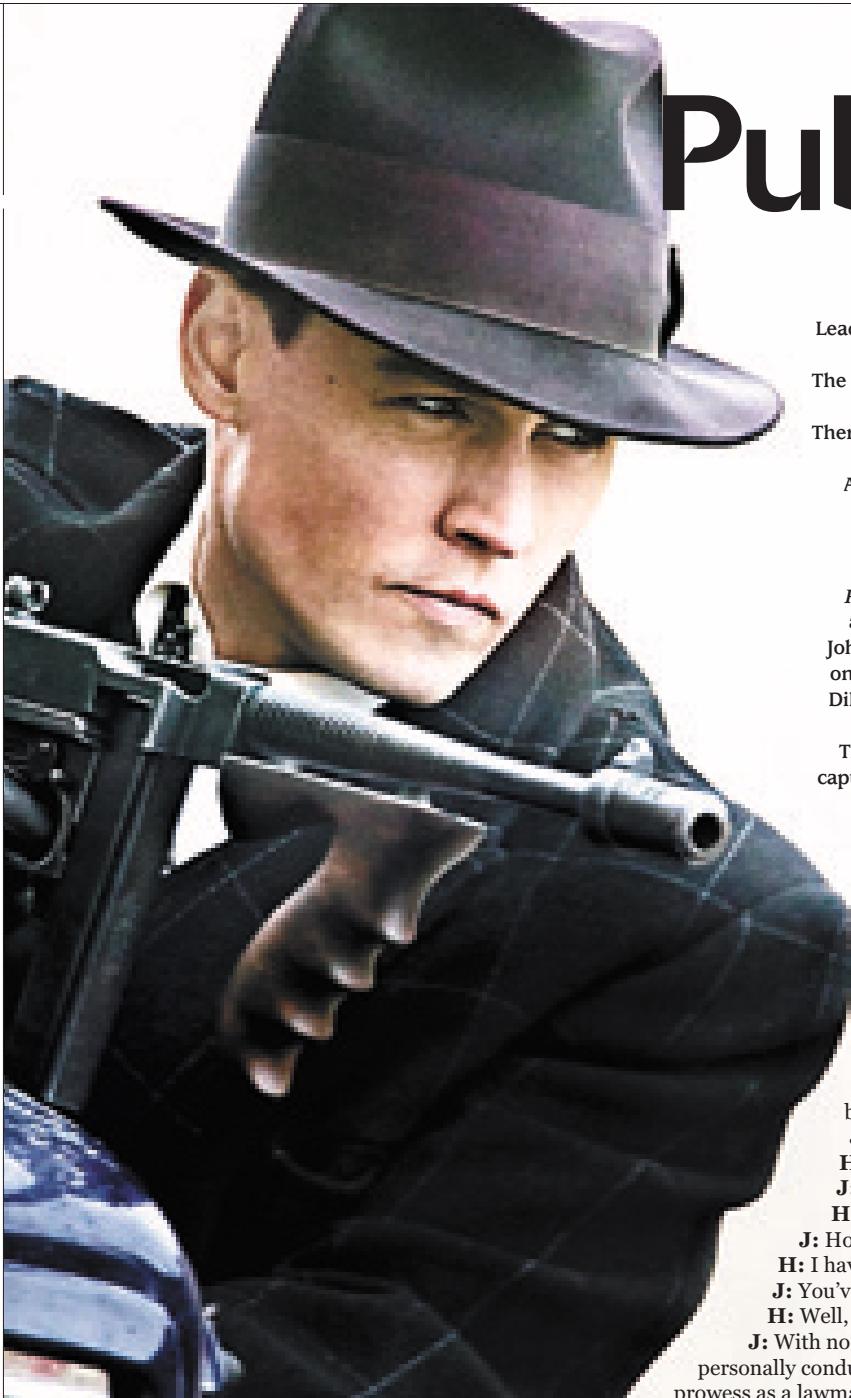
ZS: Don't you think this combination is funny? In Chinese, "xuesheng" applies to all who study. However, in English, you have pupils, students and scholars. Student, emphasizing the idea of studying, applies to any one who loves to study, but especially to someone attending a higher school, college or university. For instance, They are students from the Fudan University. Pupil, emphasizing personal supervision by a teacher, applies to a child in school or some one studying privately with a teacher. For instance, He is a pupil of the third grade in an elementary school. So, obviously the combination of "kindergarten students" is not right. It would be better to say: kindergarten kids or simply kindergarteners. So, you may see how important that we think in English when we write.

SS: Pupil is something of an outmoded word in modern English. A Parent-Teacher Association is more apt to write a notice about keeping students in grades K-5 safe than keeping their pupils safe. Alternatively, you could use more touchy-feely terms like "kindergartner" or "first-grader."

3. A single-parent girl

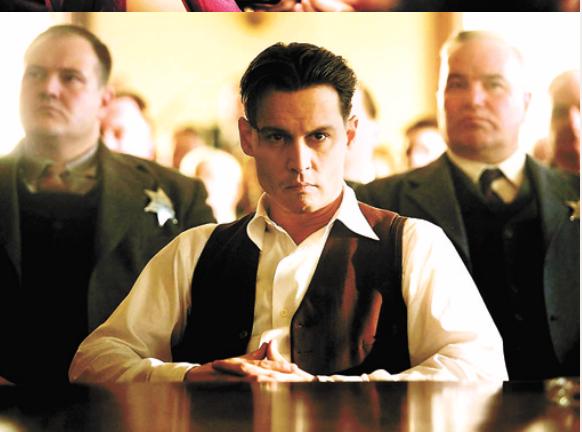
ZS: This definition may cause a lot of confusion. What does that mean? Does it mean "a girl who grows up in a single-parent family," or "a teenage mother who is raising a family"? If "single-parent" modifies "girl," we will have to presume that it is a teenage mother who is single-handedly raising a kid. As a matter of fact, the writer means a girl who grows up in a single-parent family. To eschew confusion, we'd better say: a girl with a single parent.

SS: Let's not discuss the issue of teen pregnancies – especially teen pregnancies in China. Abortions are widely available here so this event very rarely occurs. Most likely the writer is talking about a girl with only one parent. That being the case, it would be far easier to just write "a girl with only one parent" or "a girl with a single parent."

**Vocabulary**

1. **flee:** to pass swiftly away, vanish
2. **by one's tally:** here it means by one's opinion
3. **running wild:** getting out of control
4. **kangaroo court:** a court characterized by dishonesty
5. **one way or the other:** certain to happen eventually
6. **lay a glove on someone:** to stop someone
7. **drift away:** lose personal contact over time

(By Wang Yu)



Public Enemies

(2009)

Movie of the week

Lead actors Johnny Depp and Christian Bale deliver a great performance despite this film's weak storytelling.

The plot alone is good enough to earn praise from even the toughest critics. Especially once they learn the answer to its toughest puzzle: Who is John Dillinger, really?" There is a twisted answer to this one. *Public Enemies* is not about John Dillinger the man, it is about John Dillinger the icon, and how people respond to that legend. At the core of the film is a powerful love story. But it seems Director Michael Mann's profoundly great piece of film art will likely go sorely underappreciated.

Synopsis

Public Enemies follows nascent FBI and legendary agent Melvin Purvis in his crusade against the gangs of bank robbers that terrorize the US during the Great Depression. John Dillinger, a charming, charismatic figure, captivates the public with his daring raids on banks, which were hated by common people for their hand in the financial crisis. As Dillinger's robberies and jail escapes become the stuff of legend, more gangsters join his band and more copycats appear all over the country.

Their loot hauls and body count climb, FBI director J. Edgar Hoover decides Dillinger's capture is the kind of story that can catapult his new agency into national prominence. He assigns the photogenic Purvis to lead the manhunt.

Scene 1

(J. Edgar Hoover has just submitted his proposal to increase bureau funding.)

Judge (J): Why do we need this?

J. Edgar Hoover (H): Because criminals flee (1) in fast automobiles across state lines, thereby defeating local jurisdiction because there is no federal police force to stop them.

J: By my tally (2), your Bureau wants to spend more taxpayers' dollars catching crooks than what the crooks you catch stole in the first place.

H: Well, that's ridiculous. The Bureau has apprehended kidnappers and bank robbers who have stolen up to and in excess of ...

J: Really? How many have you apprehended?

H: We have arrested and arraigned 213 wanted felons.

J: No, I mean you, Director Hoover. How many?

H: Well, as Director, I administer.

J: How many have you arrested personally?

H: I have never arrested anybody.

J: You've never arrested anybody.

H: Well, of course not. I am an administrator.

J: With no field experience. You are shockingly unqualified, aren't you, sir? You have never personally conducted a criminal investigation in the field in your life. I think you're a front. I think your prowess as a lawman is a myth created from the hoopla of headlines by Mr. Suydam, your publicist there. Crimebusters, G-men, you're setting yourself up as a czar? That's running wild (3) in my estimation .

H: A crime is what runs wild.

J: If this country requires a Bureau such as yours, I question whether you are the person fit to run it.

H: Well, I will not be judged by a kangaroo court (4) of venal politicians.

J: Your appropriation increase is denied.

Scene 2

(Dillinger plots his next heist while love Billie Frechette is present.)

Billie Frechette (F): Thank you for taking me on this trip.

John Dillinger (D): You going somewhere, doll? Am I?

F: No.

D: Don't kid a kidder.

F: Then don't play me for a fool. We both know I'll end up back checking coats at the Steuben Club, one way or the other (5).

D: What does that mean?

F: You don't think past today or tomorrow. And eventually, they will catch you or kill you and I don't want to be there when that happens.

D: Who gave you a crystal ball?

F: I don't need one. Ask Homer.

D: Ask Homer what?

F: And his goddamn joke, "dead or dead."

D: You ain't going nowhere, you hear me? I'm gonna die an old man in your arms. We're too good for them. They ain't tough enough, smart enough or fast enough. I hit any bank I want any time. They got to be at every bank all the time. That's why we're on top of the world. Ain't nobody lay a glove on us (6). No.

I ain't going nowhere. Neither are you. What do you got to say about that?

Scene 3

(After Dillinger is caught, Melvin Purvis enter the jail to see him.)

D: Well, here's the man who killed Pretty Boy Floyd. Damn good thing he was pretty, because he sure wasn't Whiz Kid Floyd. Tell me something, Mr. Purvis. That fellow, the one who got killed at the Sherone Apartments, the newspaper said you found him alive. It's the eyes, ain't it?

They look at you right before they go. And then they just drift away (7) into nothing. That'll keep you up nights.

Melvin Purvis (P): And what keeps you up nights, Mr. Dillinger?

D: Coffee. You act like a confident man, Mr. Purvis. You got a few qualities. Probably pretty good from a distance, especially when you got the fellow outnumbered. But up close, toe to toe, when somebody's about to die right here, right now, I'm used to that. What about you?

P: Goodbye, Mr. Dillinger.